

That bill (SB315, 129th General Assembly) was a far-reaching energy mid-biennium review measure that strengthened requirements. But Democrats and environmental groups at the time said it didn't go far enough with its chemical disclosure provisions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2012)

"The bill required chemical disclosure to all first responders, providing access to the information that they need and allowed (the Ohio Department of Natural Resources) to ask for additional chemical information when there is an incident," said Matt Hammond, OOGA's senior vice president.

As far as the idea of increased setbacks, the organization accused OEC and its allies of attempting to use a setback increase to snuff out oil and gas development.

"We have all heard the calls for increased setback distances since 2003 and found that environmental groups have supported setback distances for the sole purpose to offend the property rights of landowners and effectively block oil and gas development," Mr. Hammond said.

Schiavoni, Williams Plan Firearm Removal Bill; Yost Unveils School Safety Plan; High Court Hears Janus Case; Kucinich Continues Gun Push...

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) on Monday announced their intention to introduce a bill allowing for the removal of firearms from people deemed to be an imminent danger to themselves or others.

The proposal would establish an Extreme Risk Protection Order that would allow family or law enforcement to ask a court to temporarily remove firearms for up to one year.

"Family members are often the first to know when a loved one starts showing signs that they're dangerous to themselves or people around them," Sen. Schiavoni, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement. "Sadly, there aren't many options available to be proactive, remove weapons and prevent those moments from becoming tragedies. This bill is common sense. It provides a clear process when loved ones notice those red flags."

Five other states have similar laws. In announcing the intention to introduce the measure, the lawmakers cited Gov. John Kasich, who in a recent television interview expressed support for ERPOs.

"I am pleased to see the conversation turn and the mood shift toward sensible gun safety measures in Ohio," Sen. Williams said. "I'm also pleased to see Gov. Kasich supporting efforts to combat gun violence. We know how to reduce gun violence in America while still respecting the Second Amendment. This bill is a step forward in that direction."

School Safety: State Auditor Dave Yost on Monday rolled out a three-point school safety plan centered on securing buildings.

The attorney general hopeful's plan calls for a statewide inventory of security measures at all 5,200 school buildings across the state and a bond-backed program to modify them to create a single point of entry, install electronic zoned locking systems and add video cameras.

The final piece of the plan calls for the establishment of a training program for school staff volunteers with prior military or law enforcement experience.

"We need to protect our kids at school at least as well as we protect our politicians at work," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "This program takes the same proven tactics and technology we use in government offices-and many private businesses-and puts them to work in our schools, where our greatest treasures are."

Janus Case: A day ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court hearing oral arguments in a case that could have far-reaching implications for public sector unions, hundreds gathered on the Statehouse lawn for the "Working People's Day of Action."

The event also comes in the wake of six pieces of legislation introduced in Ohio to revise collective bargaining laws.

"The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus stands in solidarity with labor and working people," Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President and Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) said in a statement. "Right to Work is wrong and has no place in the state of Ohio. Fair labor practices, equitable pay, representation in the workplace and building power through unity are essential to making Ohio stronger, and should be a guaranteed right to all who are willing to work."

Buckeye Institute President Robert Alt said the questioning by Justice Anthony Kennedy during oral arguments should leave union supporters concerned.

"Given how frequently Justice Kennedy is in the majority, his questions have to be a cause of concern for those seeking to continue the practice of forcing public servants to pay for union speech with which they may disagree," he said.

Gun Control: The gubernatorial campaign of Dennis Kucinich continues to put gun control in the spotlight.

In the latest move, Mr. Kucinich's running mate, Akron City Councilwoman Tara Samples, plans to introduce a measure to urge state lawmakers to pass a ban on assault weapons.

"Dennis and I, with the help of more than 2,000 grassroots volunteers, are working to convince every city council and every board of education all across Ohio to support getting these killing machines off our streets," she said in a statement. "I couldn't be more proud that my own community is about to become the first in Ohio to take this step."

New Polling: A Suffolk University/*USA Today* poll released Monday found strong support for additional gun restrictions, including 63% of respondents who want semi-automatic weapons banned.

Another 76% said that people treated for mental illness should be banned from owning firearms and 61% said stronger gun control law and background checks could prevent more mass shootings.

The poll also found that 62% believe schools should be required to have metal detectors and 58% believe there should be a requirement that schools have a armed police officer stationed on campus.

However, just 19% believe the prospects of Congress passing gun-control measures are good to excellent and 25% believe there is a fair chance for legislative action. Another 51% said the chances are poor.

"Voters see a Congress that is deaf to their wishes about remedying gun violence in the United States," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston

The nationwide survey of 1,000 individuals, which has a margin of error of 3%, also found that President Donald Trump's approval rating stands at 38%, down from 47% one year ago.

"President Trump's job performance ratings have had several ups and downs in the past year, with last March's relatively strong showing coming in the aftermath of a well-received speech to Congress," Mr. Paleologos said. "The bump he got after signing the tax bill in December appears to have been overwhelmed in light of young people challenging him on gun issues and the investigation of Russian meddling in U.S elections."

ODP Training: The Ohio Democratic Party announced Monday that more than 110 candidates took part in its "Main Street Initiative," which provides training and support to candidates.

"What Democrats are seeing nationally, we're seeing here in Ohio, too - the unprecedented energy and enthusiasm of the grassroots is turning into record numbers of Democratic candidates running in races up and down the ballot," ODP Chairman David Pepper said in a statement. "We're proud to support our state and local candidates when they run for office, as we build our bench of great public servants. We look forward to working with our 2018 'Main Street' candidates from now through Election Day and then touting their successes once they're in office."

Governor's Appointments

State Auctioneers Commission: Theresa M. Blocher of Paris for a term beginning February 26, 2018, and ending October 9, 2020.

Board of Nursing: Lauralee S. Krabill of Sandusky and Patricia A. Sharpnack of Chardon for terms beginning February 26, 2018, and ending December 31, 2021

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, March 5

One Ohio Now news conference open state data ahead of the State of the State Address, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7

Rep. Martin J. Sweeney (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Marty, We Love You; \$1,000-\$5,000; Best Buddy; \$500; Good Pal; \$100 Friend; \$25 to Friends of Martin J. Sweeney)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the # after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

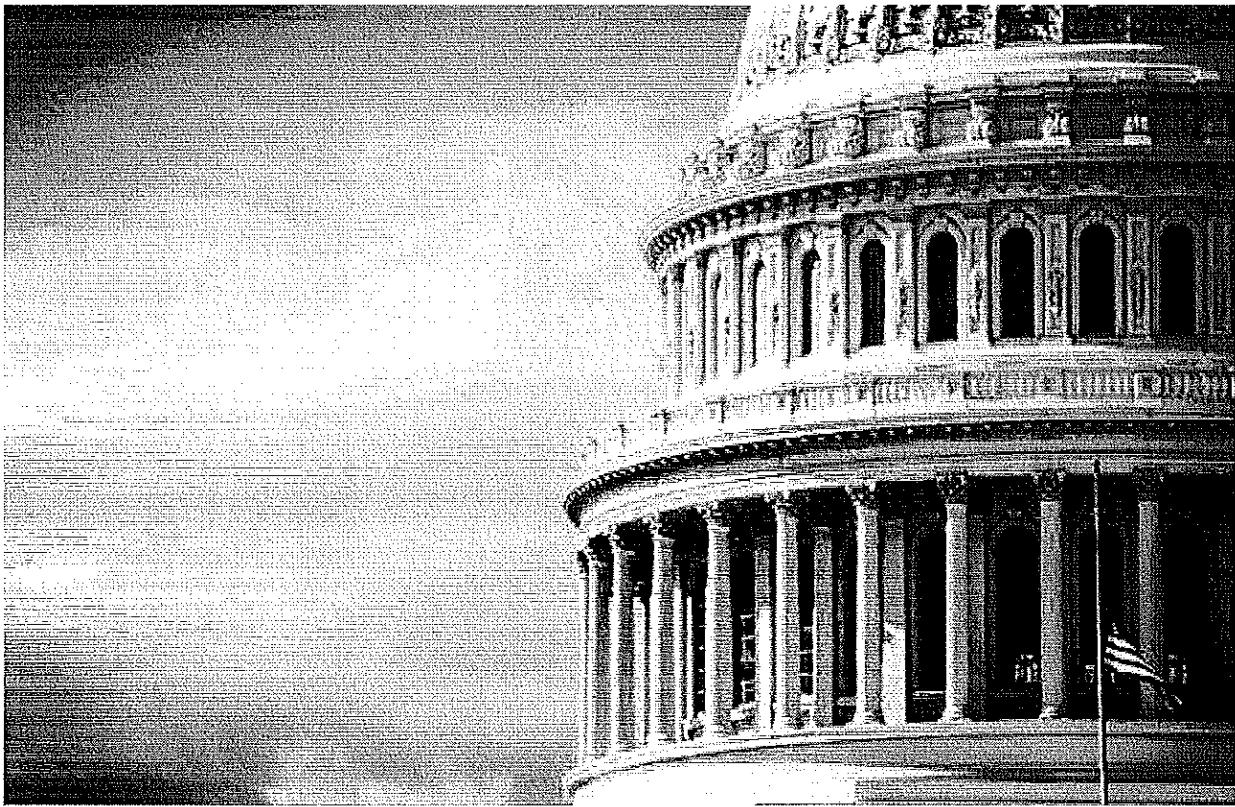
© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: Max.Behlke@ncsl.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:32 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Cap to Cap: This Week: Gun Control and Remembering the Rev. Billy Graham



CapitoltoCapitol

NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES



Feb. 27, 2018

In This Issue:

This Week: Gun Control and Remembering the Rev. Billy Graham

US Supreme Court Hears Arguments in Union Dues Case

White House Meeting on School Safety

Supreme Court to Hear Online Sales Tax Case in April

DACA and Immigration Debate Stalls in Senate

Congressional Appropriators Race to March 23 Deadline

House Republicans Signal Willingness to Negotiate with Senate on Banking Reform Measures

Also of Note...

This Week: Gun Control and Remembering the Rev. Billy Graham

Congress returned yesterday from its Presidents' Day recess, which was dominated by the issue of gun control. Since the Feb. 14 shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., the nation has been immersed in an intense debate on what to do to prevent future school shootings. However, don't expect Congress to act this week. While the Senate will be in session all week, the House will conclude business today to make way for the remembrance of Rev. Billy Graham, who will become only the fourth private citizen to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday and Thursday.

US Supreme Court Hears Arguments in Union Dues Case

Perhaps the most significant debate on Capitol Hill this week took place yesterday in the U.S. Supreme Court. The decision could not only affect every member of a public sector union but also result in the largest shift in federal education policy in 40 years.

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral argument in Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 31. Mark Janus, a public-sector employee in Illinois, is challenging the constitutionality of a state statute allowing public sector employers and unions to agree that employees who don't join the union must still pay their "fair share" of collective bargaining costs. Janus argues that

requiring him to pay his "fair share" of union dues is a violation of his First Amendment free speech rights. Janus asserts he should have the choice to join or not join, pay or don't pay.

Since 1977, when the US Supreme Court ruled in *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, public employees subject to fair share agreements have been required to pay for union representation, even if the worker doesn't join the union.

It is estimated that *Janus v. AFSCME* could impact 5.5 million public sector employees. The ruling could alter the relationship between labor and management, nationwide union membership and dues collection. At present, 22 states authorize fair share for public sector employees.

The *Janus* decision may have an outsized impact on public education given that two of the three largest public sector unions in the nation relate to education= the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers. Employees in education had the highest unionization rate of all sectors, with 37.2 percent being represented by a union.

On Dec. 5, attorneys general in 20 states (Michigan, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) filed an amicus curiae brief in support of Janus. On Jan. 19, attorneys general in 20 states (New York, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Washington) and the District of Columbia filed an amicus curiae brief in support of AFSCME.

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court considered a similar case *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Union*. With the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, the Court deadlocked with a 4-4 decision. Justice Gorsuch could be the swing vote to overturn *Abood*. A decision is expected by the end of June.

NCSL Contacts: Jon Jukuri (labor), Joan Wodiska (education)

DYK? Sunday marked the 25th anniversary of the first terror attack on the World Trade Center. The attack, which killed six people and injured more than a thousand others, involved Islamic terrorists who blew up a 1,200 pound bomb in an underground parking garage in an attempt to collapse the twin towers.

White House Meeting on School Safety

In the wake of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting, last week President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos met with more than 40 survivors, teachers and community members to discuss strategies to reduce school violence. In the meeting, the president expressed his support to improve federal background checks on gun purchases, equip school staff with firearms and explore other avenues to improve school safety. The president also issued a [Presidential Memorandum](#) directing the U.S. Department of Justice to "expeditiously as possible, to propose for notice and comment a rule banning all devices that turn legal weapons into machineguns." An official [federal regulatory review](#) of the "bump stock" rule began last fall, following the deadly shooting in Las Vegas, Nev. Over 100,000 comments were received and are being reviewed by the Justice Department.

NCSL Contact: [Joan Wodiska](#)

Supreme Court to Hear Online Sales Tax Case in April

On Friday, the Supreme Court set the argument date for the *South Dakota v. Wayfair* remote sales tax case for Tuesday, April 17. If the court rules in the South Dakota's favor, every state could be granted the authority to require remote businesses to collect and remit sales taxes on transactions made by their state's residents. If South Dakota loses, the long-term viability of the sales tax as a state revenue stream for states may be in jeopardy. For more, visit [NCSL's page](#) that summarizes the case as well as the history of remote sales tax collection issue in the states.

NCSL Contacts: [Max Behlke](#), [Jake Lestock](#)

DACA and Immigration Debate Stalls in Senate

Before Congress recessed, and before the re-emergence of the gun control debate, a fierce debate on immigration consumed Capitol Hill. However, lawmakers on Capitol Hill failed to reach a consensus on the issues of immigration reform, border security and the "Dreamers" and there is still no clear path forward for a comprehensive deal. In the Senate, neither of the four immigration-related proposals cleared the 60 vote threshold needed to advance legislation and it is unlikely that any proposal from the House would be entertained by the Senate.

While the president had set March 5 as the deadline for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, at which point he would terminate the program, federal district judges in California and New York have delayed that possibility, thus allowing more time for negotiators to work out a deal. On Monday morning, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the administration's request to rule on the legality of DACA in advance of a U.S. Circuit Court decision. In a one sentence denial of the administration's request, the Court stated, "[I]t is assumed that the Court of Appeals will proceed expeditiously to decide this case." The Court of Appeals is expected to rule on the injunction as early as April.

NCSL Contact: Susan Frederick, Lucia Bragg

White House Meeting on School Safety

In the wake of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting, last week President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos met with more than 40 survivors, teachers and community members to discuss strategies to reduce school violence. In the meeting, the president expressed his support to improve federal background checks on gun purchases, equip school staff with firearms and explore other avenues to improve school safety. The president also issued a Presidential Memorandum directing the U.S. Department of Justice to "expeditiously as possible, to propose for notice and comment a rule banning all devices that turn legal weapons into machineguns." An official federal regulatory review of the "bump stock" rule began last fall, following the deadly shooting in Las Vegas, Nev. Over 100,000 comments were received and are being reviewed by the Justice Department.

NCSL Contact: Joan Wodiska

Supreme Court to Hear Online Sales Tax Case in April

On Friday, the Supreme Court set the argument date for the *South Dakota v. Wayfair* remote sales tax case for Tuesday, April 17. If the court rules in the South Dakota's favor, every state could be granted the authority to require remote businesses to collect and remit sales taxes on transactions made by their state's residents. If South Dakota loses, the long-term viability of the sales tax as a state revenue stream for states may be in jeopardy. For more, visit [NCSL's page](#) that summarizes the case as well as the history of remote sales tax collection issue in the states.

NCSL Contacts: [Max Behlke](#), [Jake Lestock](#)

DACA and Immigration Debate Stalls in Senate

Before Congress recessed, and before the re-emergence of the gun control debate, a fierce debate on immigration consumed Capitol Hill. However, lawmakers on Capitol Hill failed to reach a consensus on the issues of immigration reform, border security and the "Dreamers" and there is still no clear path forward for a comprehensive deal. In the Senate, neither of the four immigration-related proposals cleared the 60 vote threshold needed to advance legislation and it is unlikely that any proposal from the House would be entertained by the Senate.

While the president had set March 5 as the deadline for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, at which point he would terminate the program, federal district judges in California and New York have delayed that possibility, thus allowing more time for negotiators to work out a deal. On Monday morning, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the administration's request to rule on the legality of DACA in advance of a U.S. Circuit Court decision. In a one sentence denial of the administration's request, the Court stated, "[I]t is assumed that the Court of Appeals will proceed expeditiously to decide this case." The Court of Appeals is expected to rule on the injunction as early as April.

NCSL Contact: [Susan Frederick](#), [Lucia Bragg](#)

DYK? Since 1870, when Senator Hiram Revels of Mississippi and Representative Joseph Rainey of South Carolina became the first African Americans to serve in Congress, a total of 153 African Americans have served as U.S. Representatives, Delegates, or Senators.

Congressional Appropriators Race to March 23 Deadline

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 included the fifth continuing resolution (CR) for fiscal year (FY) 2018 and set new spending caps on how much the government can spend through FY 2019. Now, lawmakers have just four weeks to craft the 12 annual appropriations bills, or one combined omnibus bill, before March 23 when the government is at risk of another government shutdown. To make things even more complicated, the budget deal also had several informal agreements that were agreed to, but did not give specifics. This includes yearly funding of:

- \$3 billion to "fight against the opioid and mental health crises."
- \$10 billion for infrastructure.
- \$2 billion to "rebuild and improve" veteran's health care.
- \$2 billion for "college affordability."
- \$2.9 billion for the child care development block grant.
- \$1 billion for the National Institutes of Health.

Now, appropriators will have to translate how this funding will look while the party leaders act as chaperones to make sure everybody complies with the deal's stipulations. This also may be the last major legislative vehicle of the year, so you can bet lawmakers are rushing to get their priority bills added to the omnibus. The budget deal reached earlier this month also created a joint committee that is specifically tasked with "advancing reforms to the budget and appropriations process." Last week, House leaders made their selections on who would try to tackle this monstrous task. Speaker Paul Ryan chose Steve Womack (R-Ark.), Rob Woodall (R-Ga.), Jodey Arrington (R-Texas), and Pete Sessions (R-Texas), while Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi chose Nita Lowery (D-N.Y.), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.), Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.) and John Yarmuth (D-Ky.). Senate leaders have yet to name their eight members to the reform committee.

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

DYK? On Feb. 25, 1863, 155 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln signed the National Currency Act (later called the "National Bank Act"), which was the first attempt to establish a central bank following the failures of the First and Second Banks of the United States. The law aim to address the hodge-podge of local banks, local money, and conflicting regulatory standards that existed before the Civil War. The act allowed for the creation of national banks, planned for a national currency, and gave the federal government the ability to sell war bonds and securities.

House Republicans Signal Willingness to Negotiate with Senate on Banking Reform Measures

House Financial Services Committee Chair, Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas), appears to be open to negotiations with the Senate on Dodd-Frank rollback measures. Hensarling, who has a steady track record of wanting to wholly dismantle Dodd-Frank, now seems to be open to more moderate reforms in a strategic attempt to get legislation to the president's desk.

Hensarling's original banking reform legislation, the Financial CHOICE Act of 2017, would have removed significant portions of Dodd-Frank. His new strategy consists of multiple individual bills amounting to an a la carte offering of banking reform measures. House Republicans are hoping that this strategy is more palatable to moderate senators than the sweeping Financial CHOICE Act, which many deemed D.O.A. in the Senate last year after it passed the House.

In his attempt to work with the Senate, Hensarling seems willing to ease up on tough reform proposals designed to slash the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—an agency that has proven to be a political lightning rod since its Dodd-Frank inception in 2010. Bipartisan policies that seem to be on the table in both chambers include relaxing regulatory oversight of credit rating agencies and increasing capital holdings thresholds for small and mid-sized banks that currently require heightened scrutiny under Dodd-Frank.

These latest attempts to move bi-partisan banking reform legislation come at the chagrin of some Democrats who feel that such measures would amount to taking a step back after progress made in the post-Great Recession era. If the House and Senate can successfully negotiate the legislation, the president has signaled ardent support for legislation that rolls-back Dodd-Frank in any form.

NCSL Contact: Ethan Wilson

Also of Note...

- Governors to Washington: Stop dithering on guns – POLITICO

State leaders from both parties implored federal lawmakers this weekend to listen to their states' examples for responsible firearm legislation after the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., increasingly exasperated with the slow pace of debate and halting progress in the nation's capital.

- [Trump's personal pilot 'in the mix' to lead the Federal Aviation Administration](#) – Washington Post
President Trump's personal pilot is "in the mix" to lead the Federal Aviation Administration, a White House official confirmed Sunday night.
- [After testy call with Trump over border wall, Mexican president shelves plan to visit White House](#) – Washington Post
Tentative plans for Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto to make his first visit to the White House to meet with President Trump were scuttled this week after a testy call between the two leaders ended in an impasse over Trump's promised border wall, according to U.S. and Mexican officials.
- [California Democratic Party doesn't endorse Feinstein re-election bid](#) – Fox News
The California Democratic Party will not endorse Sen. Dianne Feinstein's re-election bid this year, with delegates at the party's annual convention giving the majority of votes to her top primary challenger, progressive State Sen. Kevin de Leon.
- [Read the Democratic rebuttal to the Nunes memo, annotated](#) – Washington Post

[Read the Feb. 12, 2018 Capitol-to-Capitol.](#)

Like Capitol-to-Capitol? Have ideas or suggestions for how it can be improved? Please take two minutes to let us know in [this very short survey!](#)

We are always looking for interesting trivia about states, legislatures and American history. If you have some great facts, don't keep them to yourself. Let us know by clicking [here](#). We will likely include them in a future edition of Capitol to Capitol!

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact [Max Behlke](#).

[Read More](#)

Capitol to Capitol is a publication of the National Conference of State Legislatures. NCSL is recognized as a formidable lobbying force in Washington, D.C. NCSL works to protect states from unfunded federal mandates and unwarranted federal pre-emption of state authority, and seeks to provide state legislatures the flexibility they need to innovate and be responsive to the unique needs of their residents. NCSL's advocacy is guided by the policy directives and resolutions adopted during NCSL's Legislative Summit.



© National Conference of State Legislatures

Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington: 202-624-5400

[Unsubscribe from these messages.](#)

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 11:18 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: What states are doing about gun laws in wake of Florida shooting

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)

[NCSL Today | Manage your subscription](#)



TOP NEWS Feb. 27, 2018

What states are doing about gun laws in wake of Florida shooting

The New York Times

It is not just in Florida, where the mass shooting at a high school is prompting lawmakers to take up gun control legislation. The same thing is happening across the country, from Washington to Vermont.

[NCSL Blog post on carrying firearms in K-12 schools.](#)

Supreme Court to hear online tax case

April 17

Bloomberg

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon hear a long-simmering challenge about states' taxing authority over online retailers. And states should have the high court's answer by the start of summer. [NCSL brief cited](#).

[NCSL resources on remote sales tax collection.](#)

What the Supreme Court's ruling means for DACA and 'Dreamers'

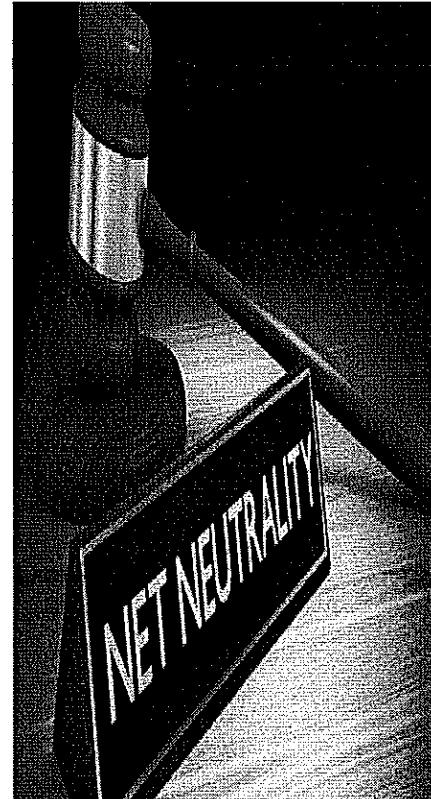
USA TODAY

By refusing to hear a California case, the high court ensured that DACA will survive at least through the fall, giving DACA enrollees a temporary reprieve from deportation and Congress more time to craft a permanent solution for them.

[NCSL resources on DACA.](#)

Iowa lawmakers move to allow health plans that skirt Obamacare rules

The Des Moines Register



RECOMMENDED

Net neutrality legislation in the states

Net neutrality legislation has been introduced in over half of the states, largely in response to the Federal Communications Commission Restoring Internet Freedom Order.

RECOMMENDED

2018 legislative races by state and chamber

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation could offer health insurance plans that don't comply with the federal Affordable Care Act under legislation advancing in the Iowa Legislature.

New Jersey lawmakers: Let inmates vote from prison

NJ.com

State lawmakers on Monday announced legislation that would return voting rights to nearly 100,000 people locked up in prison or serving parole or probation.

[NCSL resources on felon voting rights.](#)

Feds provide Connecticut schools money for new students from Puerto Rico

CT Mirror

Connecticut schools scrambled to accommodate the new arrivals — most of them non-English speakers — without additional resources from a cash-strapped state government.

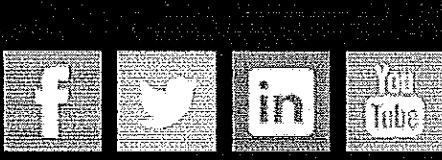
Webinar March 9: Fiscal 50 - How does your state rank?

Price of democracy: Splitting the bill for elections



Gorsuch silent during SCOTUS union dues oral argument

If there ever was a case where the vote of only one Justice is likely to matter it is *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees*. All attention was focused on Justice Neal Gorsuch this morning as the Supreme Court held oral argument in this case. And he was...silent.



© National Conference of State Legislatures
Denver: 303-364-7700
Washington: 202-624-5400

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: Max.Behlke@ncsl.org
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 4:33 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Cap to Cap: Trump: New NAFTA Would Prevent Proposed Tariffs



CapitoltoCapitol

NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES



Mar. 5, 2018

In This Issue:

Trump: New NAFTA Would Prevent Proposed Tariffs

Seventh round of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Renegotiations Wrap up Today This Week on Capitol Hill

Roadblock to 2018 Infrastructure Bill?

Commerce Committees Announce Broad Telecom Package

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell Testifies before Congress

Senate to Debate Bill That Exempts Small Banks from Dodd-Frank

Carrying Firearms in K-12 Schools

Court Hears Oral Argument in Janus v. AFSCME Case

NCSL Files Amicus Brief in South Dakota v. Wayfair Sales Tax Case

Opioids Crisis Garners Further Federal Attention

Also of Note...

Trump: New NAFTA Would Prevent Proposed Tariffs

Last Thursday, President Donald Trump announced that the United States would impose 25 percent tariffs on imported steel and 10 percent tariffs on imported aluminum. The move, which surprised many in Washington and even many of the president's advisers, rattled the stock market as well as many manufacturing companies that rely on the metals. The announcement also surprised officials in the European Union, who have threatened to retaliate by imposing penalties on \$3.5 billion of U.S. exports, especially on products manufactured in states of Republicans leaders, including Harley-Davidson motorcycles (Wisconsin, Speaker Paul Ryan) and bourbon (Kentucky, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell).

The U.S. has experimented with steel tariffs relatively recently. In 2002, President George W. Bush imposed sweeping tariffs on steel imports but dropped them in 2003. The tariffs raised the cost of steel by 3 percent and a 2003 study by the research firm Trade Partnership Worldwide estimated that the higher steel prices, caused chiefly by the tariffs, cost 200,000 steel-consuming jobs in 2003, largely in manufacturing.

This morning, the president tied the tariffs to the ongoing negotiations to rewrite the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by tweeting that the "Tariffs on Steel and Aluminum will only come off if new & fair NAFTA agreement is signed." The comments are not particularly surprising as Canada and Mexico were the first and fourth top suppliers of U.S. imported steel in 2017. Given that it is an election year both in the U.S. and in Mexico, many NAFTA watchers believe that talks to renegotiate the three-country agreement may last the rest of the year. However, retaliation against the U.S. tariffs could come much more quickly.

Seventh round of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Renegotiations Wrap up Today

Representatives from Mexico, Canada and the U.S. convened over the past week for the seventh round of NAFTA negotiations in Mexico City.

Later today, the seventh-round negotiations are scheduled to conclude with a meeting among the U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland and Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo. The three top trade officials from the NAFTA countries are expected to hold a press conference after the formal round of negotiations are completed.

Last week, Trump announced plans to impose tariffs on steel (25 percent) and aluminum (10 percent) to protect natural security interests. However, Trump has not specified whether he will grant exemptions to the tariffs for key allies and vital trading partners. An eighth round of NAFTA negotiations in Washington, D.C., is expected to be held in early April.

NCSL Contacts: Jon Jukuri

This Week on Capitol Hill

The Senate is turning to banking reform as efforts to pass gun control legislation appear to have stalled. The financial legislation, which will provide relief to small financial institutions and community banks, would be the first rewrite of the Dodd-Frank reform bill, legislation enacted nearly eight years ago in wake of the financial crisis. The legislation is expected to consume most of the chamber's floor time this week.

During its brief sessions on Monday and Tuesday last week, the House passed a bill to make it easier for victims and prosecutors to sue websites linked to sex trafficking. This week, the House is expected to vote on two energy and environment bills: the Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns (BRICK) Act and the Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment (SENSE) Act. The BRICK Act would change certain Environmental Protection Agency regulations to benefit the brick and structural clay ceramics manufacturing industries. The SENSE Act would exempt certain power plants, which burn coal refuse, from parts of a 2012 air pollution rule. The House is expected to vote on the bills on Wednesday and Thursday.

The House is also expected to vote on the Comprehensive Regulatory Review Act on Tuesday, which is aimed at eliminating outdated or unnecessary regulations. The bill would require the audit of financial regulations to be completed every seven years, instead of every 10, and would expand the number of federal financial agencies the review requirements apply to.

DYK? Until the adoption of the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1933, U.S. presidents were inaugurated on March 4. However, the first president, George Washington, was not inaugurated until April 30. Although Congress had scheduled the first inauguration for March 4, 1789, they were unable to count the electoral ballots as early as anticipated.

Roadblock to 2018 Infrastructure Bill?

Last week, Assistant Majority Leader, Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) conveyed doubt that a large infrastructure package would pass Congress by the end of the year because of the large number of other priorities it must complete. While last month's budget deal calls for a \$10 billion boost to infrastructure funding for both FY 2018 and FY 2019, it remains unclear how such funding will be allocated with broadband, surface transportation, and clean and safe drinking water among a bevy of potential options.

While the funding in the budget deal is needed given the state of the nation's infrastructure, it is far from Trump's proposed \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan. Senator Tom Carper (D-Del.), the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, responded to Cornyn's remarks by saying, "I hope he's wrong. This administration, the president has talked so much about infrastructure, transportation, broadband deployment, water, sewer. If we can't figure out a path forward on this, shame on the president, shame on the administration, shame on the Congress."

Although a large infrastructure package may face a difficult road to passage, Congress still anticipates passing two other main infrastructure bills—a full four-year reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (airports and drones) and a two-year reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (ports, harbors, inland waterways, and clean and safe drinking water).

NCSL Contacts: [Ben Husch](#), [Kristen Hildreth](#)

Commerce Committees Announce Broad Telecom Package

Lawmakers on both the House and Senate Commerce committees have reached a bipartisan deal on a broad package of telecom provisions that will likely be bundled in this month's omnibus bill if a standalone package is not passed beforehand. The deal includes elements of the House's Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reauthorization package, which would provide the agency with more than \$330 million annually in FY 2019 and FY 2020, and includes key provisions from the Senate's Mobile Now spectrum bill. The Mobile Now Act provisions include allowing the FCC to hold upfront spectrum auction bids later this year with the U.S. Treasury.

In a joint statement, House and Senate committee leaders, Representative Greg Walden (R-Ore.), Representative Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), Senator John Thune (R-S.D.) and Senator Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) said the "bipartisan, bicameral product puts consumers first and solidifies the nation's critical telecommunications infrastructure, giving the U.S. a global edge" in the race to develop fifth-generation, or 5G, wireless networks "and in improving internet services across the country."

The legislation, [Ray Baum's Act \(H.R. 4986\)](#), will first be voted on in the House tomorrow, March 6, which is said to be a demonstration vote to congressional leadership that including the legislation in the omnibus bill will not threaten the package's chances of passage.

NCSL Contacts: [Danielle Dean](#)

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell Testifies before Congress

Last week, Fed Chair Jerome Powell appeared before the House and Senate [testifying](#) on the Federal Reserve's semiannual [Monetary Policy Report](#). In his first appearance before Congress as one of the nation's top

financial regulators, Powell commented on current economic conditions, addressing hot topics such as inflation, interest rates and the Fed's years-long accommodative monetary policies. Congressional members also peppered Powell with questions on myriad issues ranging from the new tax law and pending banking reform legislation to lending practices and consumer protection. [View the full Senate testimony.](#)

During his testimony, Powell recognized the Fed's congressional mandate of promoting both maximum employment and stable prices—economic dynamics that tend to operate inversely, especially during times of relatively swift economic growth. Powell reported a generally favorable U.S. economic outlook, citing current job gains, economic growth and unemployment (4.1 percent) numbers. He went on to note that the Fed expects the inflation rate to tick upward, moving closer to the agency's target rate of 2 percent.

Questions remain as to the full cumulative effects of the recent tax legislation combined with historically low unemployment, high labor demand and increasing wages. With more money in the economy and wages on the rise, some believe that inflation will rise at a higher pace than anticipated by the Fed. For now, it appears that the Fed will proceed with at least three incremental interest rate hikes this year, with a fourth possible.

NCSL Contact: [Ethan Wilson](#)

DYK?

Before the 20th Amendment, presidential inaugurations were typically held on March 4. However, when the March 4 fell on a Sunday, as it did in 1821, 1849, 1877, and 1917, the ceremonies were held on March 5.

In 1877, March 4 fell on a Sunday, so on March 3, 1877, Rutherford B. Hayes became the first president to take the oath of office in the White House during a private ceremony. Hayes' also took the oath in a public ceremony on March 5.

On March 4, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson became the first person to break precedent and take the oath of office on Sunday, which was also the first time that the oath was taken privately in the President's Room at the Capitol.

Also, Inauguration day has only fallen on a Sunday three times since the passage of the 20th Amendment. In all three instances, the presidents were sworn in during a private ceremony on Sunday, followed by a public ceremony on Monday.

Senate to Debate Bill that Exempts Small Banks from Dodd-Frank

Last Thursday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) filed a cloture motion on S. 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act, which is legislation intended to provide smaller banks relief from rules and regulations established under Dodd-Frank. Debate on the measure is expected to last most of the week in the chamber.

In general, the legislation raises the threshold at which a bank is deemed big enough to warrant tighter oversight from \$50 billion to \$250 billion. An initial procedural vote on the bill is expected on Tuesday, where the legislation will need 60 votes to pass, which it is expected to attain given that it is supported by moderate Democrats. More progressive members, however, have vocally opposed the bill. "The Senate—with the support of some Democrats—is set to start debate on a bill to roll back regulations on the same big banks we bailed out a few years ago. If we lose the final vote next week, we'll be paving the way for the next big crash," Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) said in a tweet Friday.

Warren, considered a potential 2020 contender, rose through the Democratic Party's ranks by focusing on financial oversight.

NCSL Contact: [Ethan Wilson](#)

Carrying Firearms in K-12 Schools

In the wake of the tragic events in Parkland, Fla., federal and state laws governing firearms have been in the forefront of public attention. Last week, the president held a bipartisan meeting to discuss school violence and access to firearms. Trump has indicated support for school staff having access to firearms. This week, the president is expected to meet with "members of the video game industry" to discuss the relationships between violence and video gaming. [Read NCSL's Blog post on Carrying Firearms in K-12 Schools: A Policy Snapshot.](#) [NCSL Summary Carrying Firearms K-12 Schools](#)

NCSL Contact: [Joan Wodiska](#)

Court Hears Oral Argument in *Janus v. AFSCME* Case

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*. The case considers the question of whether state laws that require the

collection of "fair-share" dues in unions violate the First Amendment. While Justice Neil Gorsuch is expected to be the swing vote, last week he remained silent during the oral arguments.

NCSL Contacts: Jon Jukuri (Labor); Joan Wodiska (Education)

DYK? Thirty-six hours after his inauguration on March 4, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a "bank holiday," which closed all U.S. banks and froze all financial transactions for a week to stem bank runs during the financial crisis of the Great Depression. Following the bank holiday, on March 9, Congress introduced, passed, and the president signed the Emergency Banking Relief Act, which allowed banks to reopen as soon as examiners had found them to be financially secure. Within three days, 5,000 banks had been given permission to be re-opened.

NCSL Files Amicus Brief in South Dakota v. Wayfair Sales Tax Case

On March 2, NCSL, along with the national organizations that represent state and local officials, filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court for one of the most important state tax cases in decades: *South Dakota v. Wayfair*.

In this case, South Dakota is asking the Supreme Court to rule that states and local governments may require retailers with no in-state physical presence to collect sales tax. Ruling this way will require the Supreme Court to overturn long-standing precedent.

The amicus brief points out that states and local governments lost an estimated \$26 billion in sales tax revenue in 2015 because they were unable to collect owed taxes. The brief encourages the Court to overturn *Quill*. If the Court decides to replace the physical presence requirement, the brief asks the Court to adopt an economic nexus requirement—like the one the South Dakota legislature adopted.

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

Opioids Crisis Garners Further Federal Attention

This week, the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee will hold a full hearing on the Opioid Crisis: Leadership and Innovation the States. Guest witnesses are Governors Larry Hogan (R) of Maryland and Kate Brown (D) of Oregon. Last week, the president hosted an opioid summit to discuss the administration's efforts to confront the opioid crisis.

NCSL Contacts: Haley Nicholson (Health); Susan Frederick (Criminal Justice); Joan Wodiska (Education)

Also of Note...

- **This Democrat Is Running for Congress--but Not Against Trump -- [The Atlantic](#)**
 - **Ryan splits with Trump on trade as GOP lawmakers move to block planned tariffs - [Washington Post](#)**
- **Inside the \$9.1 Million Effort to Bolster Republican Running in Trump Country -- [The Wall Street Journal](#)**
- **Mueller subpoenas witness for documents tied to Trump, campaign associates: report -- [The Hill](#)**

Read the Feb. 26, 2018 Capitol-to-Capitol.

Like Capitol-to-Capitol? Have ideas or suggestions for how it can be improved? Please take two minutes to let us know in this [very short survey!](#)

We are always looking for interesting trivia about states, legislatures and American history. If you have some great facts, don't keep them to yourself. Let us know by clicking [here](#). We will likely include them in a future edition of Capitol to Capitol!

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact [Max Behlke](#).

[Read More](#)

Capitol to Capitol is a publication of the National Conference of State Legislatures. NCSL is recognized as a formidable lobbying force in Washington, D.C. NCSL works to protect states from unfunded federal mandates and unwarranted federal pre-emption of state authority, and seeks to provide state legislatures the flexibility they need to innovate and be responsive to the unique needs of their residents. NCSL's advocacy is guided by the policy directives and resolutions adopted during NCSL's Legislative Summit.

© National Conference of State Legislatures

Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington: 202-624-5400



[Unsubscribe from these messages.](#)

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:49 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Senate Releases Calendar for Second Half of 2018](#)
- [House OKs Religious Rights Bills, Child Marriage Ban, Rules on Explicit Images](#)
- [Senate Passes Government Regulations Reduction, Community School Legislation](#)
- [Dems Thwarted in Effort to Report Out Payday Lending Bill](#)
- [Senate Panel Seeks to Clarify E-School 'Safe Harbor' Provisions](#)
- [Energy Standards Bill Still Not Ready to Move, Lawmakers Say](#)
- [Portman, Brown Tout Defense Investment, Push Lake Erie Clean-Up](#)
- [SCOTUS Rules against Public-Sector Labor Unions](#)
- [Reactions Roll In to SCOTUS Decision in Janus v. AFSCME 31](#)
- [U.S. Supreme Court Justice Kennedy to Retire](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Opinions; Appeals Accepted](#)
- [Executive Actions: Appointments](#)

House Committee Reports

- [Agriculture and Rural Development](#)
- [Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security](#)
- [Civil Justice](#)
- [Government Accountability and Oversight](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Insurance](#)

Senate Committee Reports

- [Education](#)
- [Energy and Natural Resources](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Government Oversight and Reform](#)
- [Rules and Reference Committee](#)
- [Transportation, Commerce and Workforce](#)

Hannah News Service, Inc. | 21 W. Broad Street, Suite 1000, Columbus, Ohio 43215 |
614.227.5820 | www.hannah.com

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Hey, you, behind the wheel: Turn off 'Survivor'

NCSL Today | Manage your subscription



TOP NEWS June 28, 2018

States cracking down on streaming video while driving

USA TODAY

Georgia isn't the only state to single out streaming as a new danger. A Washington state law, the Driving Under the Influence of Electronics Act, in January was the first to specifically mention video on phones. It even makes it illegal for Washington drivers to sneak a peek at their smartphone when stopped in traffic or at a stoplight, though they can touch a mounted or in-dash screen.

NCSL's Annie Kitch quoted.

[NCSL resources on distracted driving.](#)

'Now comes the interesting part' with online sales tax collections

Route Fifty

The court ruling in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* has



also left complicated questions in its wake. Like what the specifics of new state policies could look like, whether Congress will take action, and how companies that sell goods online will react. NCSL's Max Behlke quoted.

Maine legislature passes sweeping medical marijuana reform bill

Portland Press Herald

The bill, which now goes to Gov. Paul LePage, would let caregivers expand their business operations. For example, they could hire more than one worker, and sell up to 30 percent of their harvest to other caregivers and dispensaries.

[NCSL resources on medial marijuana.](#)

Ohio legislature passes blockchain legislation

Cleveland.com

Ohio is close to becoming the latest state to offer legal support for blockchain-based business transactions, following a Wednesday vote by the state's General Assembly.

[NCSL LegisBrief on blockchain technology.](#)

South Carolina lawmakers OK rate cuts for failed nuclear plants

Associated Press

South Carolina lawmakers have approved a temporary rate cut of nearly 15 percent for customers of a private utility who paid billions for two nuclear reactors that never produced power.

Webinar 3 p.m. ET TODAY Federal infrastructure funding - an update while we wait

One of the most talked-about possibilities for federal action in 2018 is a new infrastructure bill that aims to inject what nearly all experts agree is a significant boost of funds for many of our national infrastructure systems.



= A

2017 state tax actions

Hear from thought leaders at NCSL's Legislative Summit July 30-Aug. 2

Connect with the new NCSL Events mobile app



Supreme Court deals blow to unions in Janus case

The U.S. Supreme Court held 5-4 in *Janus v. AFSCME* that state statutes allowing public sector employers and unions to agree that employees who don't join the union must still pay their

Commercial spaceports still waiting for liftoff

"fair share" of collective bargaining costs violate the First Amendment.

Stateline

Communities are eager to tap into the growing commercial space industry.



© National Conference of State Legislatures

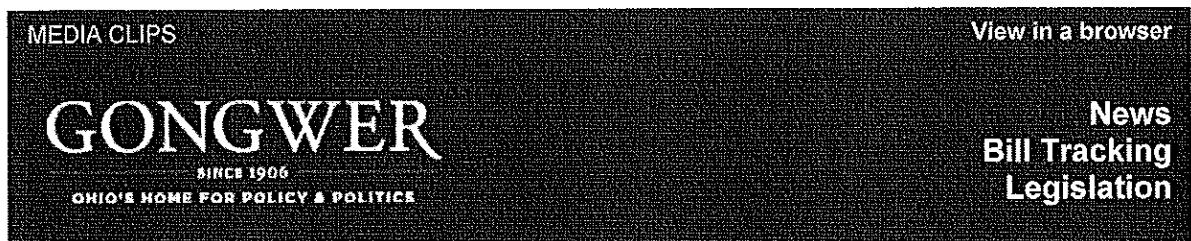
Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington: 202-624-5400

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 8:36 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Monday, July 2



NEWS

Auditor's report shows opioids impact on Medicaid (Associated Press, 7/2/2018)

Ohio Lawmakers Approve Lake Erie Algae Prevention Bill (Associated Press, 7/2/2018)

Biden in Cincy: Trump's ideology is 'aggrandizing power' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/2/2018)

Complaint: Security should not stop black, female lawmaker (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/2/2018)

Ohio's Trump country is fond of this Democrat (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/2/2018)

First Ohio medical marijuana cultivator OK'd to grow cannabis, testing lab licenses awarded (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Hey Washington, regular Ohioans agree on these federal budget fixes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Ohio's new compliant driver's licenses: What documents will you need? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Rep. Emilia Sykes files racism, sexism complaints with Ohio Civil Rights Commission over state building security allegations (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Capitol Insider: Why is Ohio Medicaid defending pharmacy middlemen? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Fireworks bill still up in the air as July Fourth holiday approaches (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Ohio teacher evaluations get an overhaul teachers like (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Ohio U and University of Toledo team up on health issues, including opioids (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Video catches Cordray dropping another Nazi reference (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Local child's death could spark statewide abuse registry (Dayton Daily News, 7/2/2018)

Ohio governor race: DeWine says he wants to make these changes to Ohio's early childhood programs (Dayton Daily News, 7/2/2018)

Some Ohio Democrats on ballot this year for Congress say Pelosi must go (Dayton Daily News, 7/2/2018)

2 Butler County Statehouse candidates among the state's top fundraisers since January (Journal-News, 7/2/2018)

Ohio lawmakers back bill requiring teachers to out transgender kids (Journal-News, 7/2/2018)

Lawmakers send Clean Lake 2020 Plan to Kasich (Port Clinton News Herald, 7/2/2018)

Fireworks regulations vary by state, city (Toledo Blade, 7/2/2018)

Government, military officials in favor of Trump's nuclear bailout plan (Toledo Blade, 7/2/2018)

Janus ruling unlikely to impact local unions, organizers say (Toledo Blade, 7/2/2018)

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur to receive key to the city (Toledo Blade, 7/2/2018)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Repair online charter schools? Statehouse Republicans aren't there yet (Akron Beacon Journal, 7/2/2018)

Ohio lawmakers pass questionable legislation in 'bill-a-thon' session: Thomas Suddes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Editorial: Senate payday delay hurts consumers but helps lobbyists (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Sherrod Brown steps up (Toledo Blade, 7/2/2018)

This message is provided to you as part of your subscription to Gongwer News Service.

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

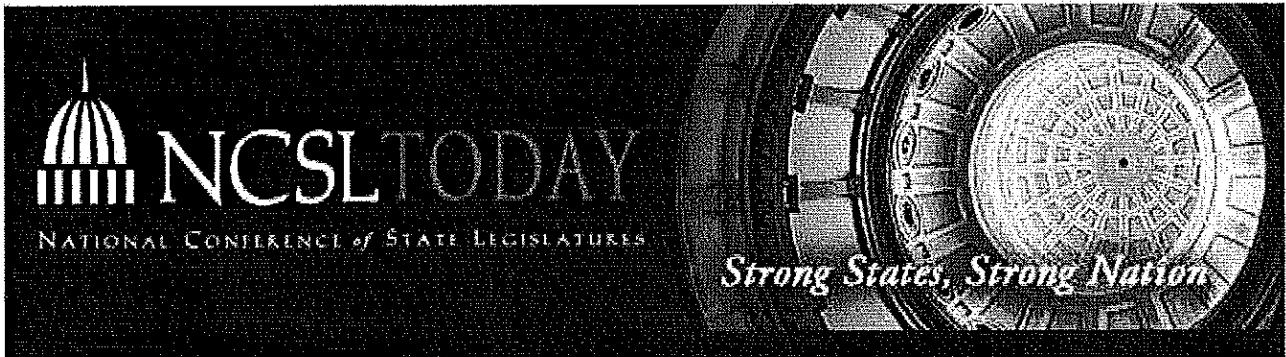
Copyright 2018, Gongwer News Service/Ohio
17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without
express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 10:49 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

NCSL Today | Manage your subscription



TOP NEWS July 9, 2018

Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

Stateline

Unplugged wells can leak explosive gas into neighborhoods and leach toxins into groundwater.

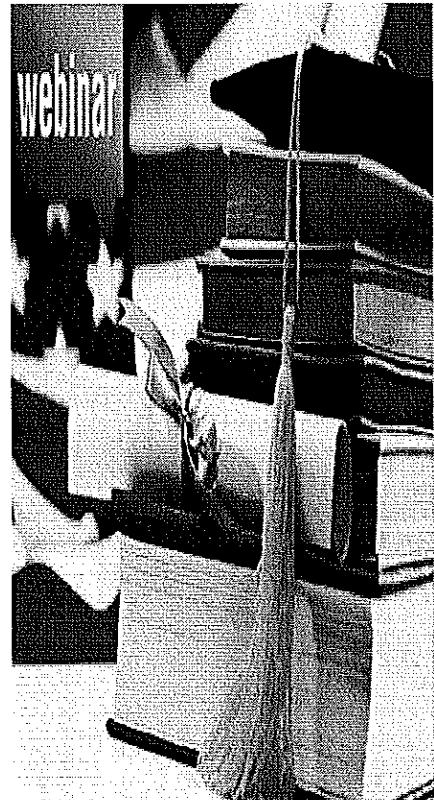
At state level, GOP renews push for 'supermajority' for tax hikes

The Washington Post

Florida Republicans are pursuing a plan to make it harder for lawmakers to raise taxes in the state, adding new hurdles for Democrats hoping to enact bold social programs such as "Medicare for all" and more robust education spending. **NCSL research cited.**

Insurers warn of rising premiums after Trump axes Obamacare payments again

Reuters



Health insurers warned that a move by the Trump administration on Saturday to temporarily suspend a program that was set to pay out \$10.4 billion to insurers for covering high-risk individuals last year could drive up premium costs and create marketplace uncertainty.

[NCSL resources on health insurance premiums and increases.](#)

North Dakota measure would ban noncitizen voting

Associated Press

Backers of a measure to change the North Dakota Constitution to explicitly bar non-U.S. citizens from voting say they have gathered enough signatures to get it on the November ballot. [NCSL research cited.](#)

Delaware lawmakers approve bill to prohibit pharmacist 'gag clauses'

Delaware Public Media

Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs), third-party administrators of prescription drug programs for health insurance plans, sometimes forbid pharmacists from telling customers about cheaper therapeutic alternatives, or disclosing when a drug might be cheaper when paid for out-of-pocket, rather than through insurance. A [NCSL data cited.](#) [NCSL resources on 'gag clauses'.](#)

Janus ruling is a blow to public unions - especially bad for black women

Governing

The Supreme Court's decision could weaken unions'

Webinar Wednesday: Revitalizing civics education in U.S. schools

This webinar will explore the general state of civics knowledge and education in the United States and highlight some of the work state legislators are undertaking to address the civics education and engagement in their states.

FY 2019 state budget status

Hear from thought leaders at the forefront of top issues at the Legislative Summit

Connect with the new NCSL Events mobile app

Dig deep into Supreme Court's term with this free webinar series

Check out this series of webinars organized by the State and Local Legal Center and hosted by NCSL and other organizations. All of the webinars are FREE and intended for

collective bargaining power, which has historically benefited women of color more than most.

a non-attorney and attorney audiences.



© National Conference of State Legislatures

Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington: 202-624-5400

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

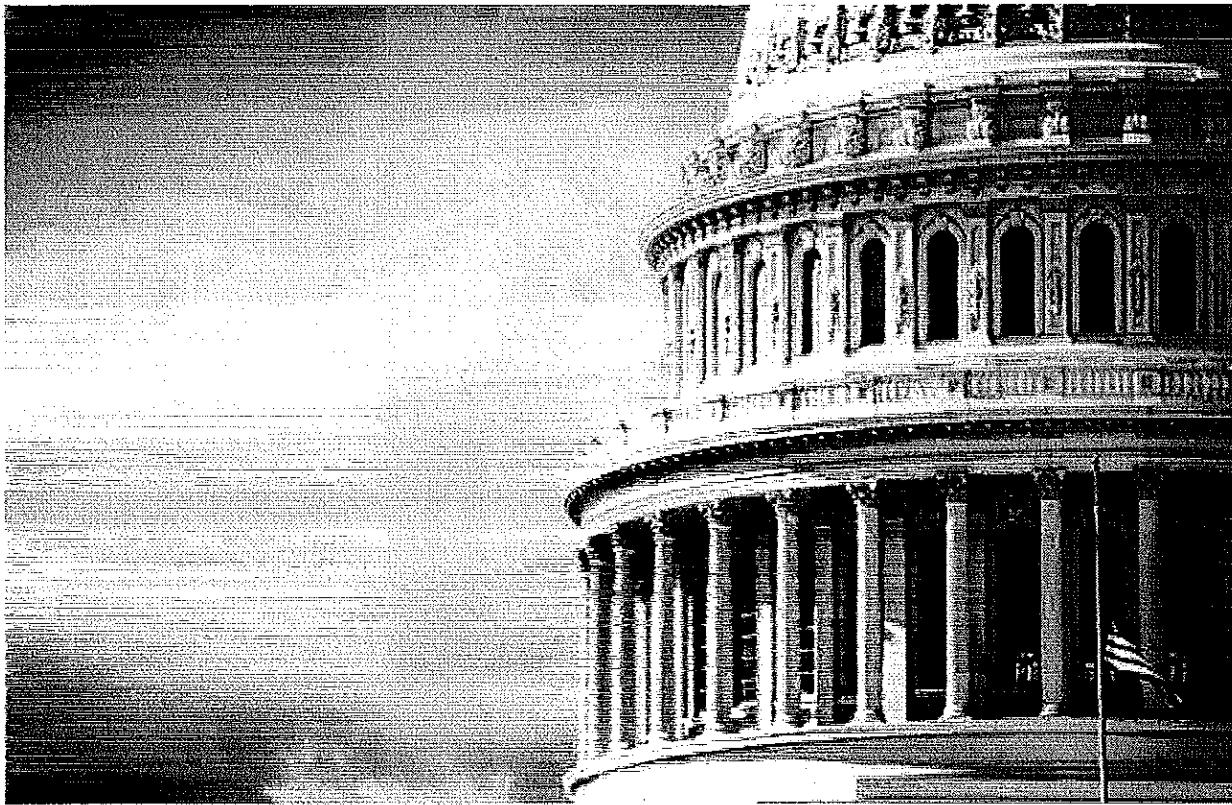
7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: Max.Behlke@ncsl.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:32 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Cap to Cap: This Week: Gun Control and Remembering the Rev. Billy Graham



CapitoltoCapitol

NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES



Feb. 27, 2018

In This Issue:

This Week: Gun Control and Remembering the Rev. Billy Graham

US Supreme Court Hears Arguments in Union Dues Case

White House Meeting on School Safety

Supreme Court to Hear Online Sales Tax Case in April

DACA and Immigration Debate Stalls in Senate

Congressional Appropriators Race to March 23 Deadline

House Republicans Signal Willingness to Negotiate with Senate on Banking Reform Measures

Also of Note...

This Week: Gun Control and Remembering the Rev. Billy Graham

Congress returned yesterday from its Presidents' Day recess, which was dominated by the issue of gun control. Since the Feb. 14 shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., the nation has been immersed in an intense debate on what to do to prevent future school shootings. However, don't expect Congress to act this week. While the Senate will be in session all week, the House will conclude business today to make way for the remembrance of Rev. Billy Graham, who will become only the fourth private citizen to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday and Thursday.

US Supreme Court Hears Arguments in Union Dues Case

Perhaps the most significant debate on Capitol Hill this week will take place yesterday in the U.S. Supreme Court. The decision could not only affect every member of a public sector union but also result in the largest shift in federal ~~education policy~~ in 40 years.

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral argument in Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 31. Mark Janus, a public-sector employee in Illinois, is challenging the constitutionality of a state statute allowing public sector employers and unions to agree that employees who don't join the union must still pay their "fair share" of collective bargaining costs. Janus argues that

requiring him to pay his "fair share" of union dues is a violation of his First Amendment free speech rights. Janus asserts he should have the choice to join or not join, pay or don't pay.

Since 1977, when the US Supreme Court ruled in *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, public employees subject to fair share agreements have been required to pay for union representation, even if the worker doesn't join the union.

It is estimated that *Janus v. AFSCME* could impact 5.5 million public sector employees. The ruling could alter the relationship between labor and management, nationwide union membership and dues collection. At present, 22 states authorize fair share for public sector employees.

The *Janus* decision may have an outsized impact on public education given that two of the three largest public sector unions in the nation relate to education= 7the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers. Employees in education had the highest unionization rate of all sectors, with 37.2 percent being represented by a union.

On Dec. 5, attorneys general in 20 states (Michigan, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) filed an amicus curiae brief in support of Janus. On Jan. 19, attorneys general in 20 states (New York, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Washington) and the District of Columbia filed an amicus curiae brief in support of AFSCME.

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court considered a similar case *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Union*. With the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, the Court ~~deadlocked with a 4-4 decision~~. Justice Gorsuch could be the swing vote to overturn *Abood*. A decision is expected by the end of June.

NCSL Contacts: Jon Jukuri (labor), Joan Wodiska (education)

DYK? Sunday marked the 25th anniversary of the first terror attack on the World Trade Center. The attack, which killed six people and injured more than a thousand others, involved Islamic terrorists who blew up a 1,200 pound bomb in an underground parking garage in an attempt to collapse the twin towers.

White House Meeting on School Safety

In the wake of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting, last week President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos met with more than 40 survivors, teachers and community members to discuss strategies to reduce school violence. In the meeting, the president expressed his support to improve federal background checks on gun purchases, equip school staff with firearms and explore other avenues to improve school safety. The president also issued a [Presidential Memorandum](#) directing the U.S. Department of Justice to "expeditiously as possible, to propose for notice and comment a rule banning all devices that turn legal weapons into machineguns." An official [federal regulatory review](#) of the "bump stock" rule began last fall, following the deadly shooting in Las Vegas, Nev. Over 100,000 comments were received and are being reviewed by the Justice Department.

NCSL Contact: [Joan Wodiska](#)

Supreme Court to Hear Online Sales Tax Case in April

On Friday, the Supreme Court set the argument date for the *South Dakota v. Wayfair* remote sales tax case for Tuesday, April 17. If the court rules in the South Dakota's favor, every state could be granted the authority to require remote businesses to collect and remit sales taxes on transactions made by their state's residents. If South Dakota loses, the long-term viability of the sales tax as a state revenue stream for states may be in jeopardy. For more, visit [NCSL's page](#) that summarizes the case as well as [the history of remote sales tax collection issue in the states](#).

NCSL Contacts: [Max Behike](#), [Jake Lestock](#)

DACA and Immigration Debate Stalls in Senate

Before Congress recessed, and before the re-emergence of the gun control debate, a fierce debate on immigration consumed Capitol Hill. However, lawmakers on Capitol Hill failed to reach a consensus on the issues of immigration reform, border security and the "Dreamers" and there is still no clear path forward for a comprehensive deal. In the Senate, neither of the four immigration-related proposals cleared the 60 vote threshold needed to advance legislation and it is unlikely that any proposal from the House would be entertained by the Senate.

While the president had set March 5 as the deadline for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, at which point he would terminate the program, federal district judges in California and New York have delayed that possibility, thus allowing more time for negotiators to work out a deal. On Monday morning, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the administration's request to rule on the legality of DACA in advance of a U.S. Circuit Court decision. In a one sentence denial of the administration's request, the Court stated, "[I]t is assumed that the Court of Appeals will proceed expeditiously to decide this case." The Court of Appeals is expected to rule on the injunction as early as April.

NCSL Contact: Susan Frederick, Lucia Bragg

White House Meeting on School Safety

In the wake of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting, last week President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos met with more than 40 survivors, teachers and community members to discuss strategies to reduce school violence. In the meeting, the president expressed his support to improve federal background checks on gun purchases, equip school staff with firearms and explore other avenues to improve school safety. The president also issued a Presidential Memorandum directing the U.S. Department of Justice to "expeditiously as possible, to propose for notice and comment a rule banning all devices that turn legal weapons into machineguns." An official federal regulatory review of the "bump stock" rule began last fall, following the deadly shooting in Las Vegas, Nev. Over 100,000 comments were received and are being reviewed by the Justice Department.

NCSL Contact: Joan Wodiska

Supreme Court to Hear Online Sales Tax Case in April

On Friday, the Supreme Court set the argument date for the *South Dakota v. Wayfair* remote sales tax case for Tuesday, April 17. If the court rules in the South Dakota's favor, every state could be granted the authority to require remote businesses to collect and remit sales taxes on transactions made by their state's residents. If South Dakota loses, the long-term viability of the sales tax as a state revenue stream for states may be in jeopardy. For more, visit [NCSL's page](#) that summarizes the case as well as the history of remote sales tax collection issue in the states.

NCSL Contacts: [Max Behlike](#), [Jake Lestock](#)

DACA and Immigration Debate Stalls in Senate

Before Congress recessed, and before the re-emergence of the gun control debate, a fierce debate on immigration consumed Capitol Hill. However, lawmakers on Capitol Hill failed to reach a consensus on the issues of immigration reform, border security and the "Dreamers" and there is still no clear path forward for a comprehensive deal. In the Senate, neither of the four immigration-related proposals cleared the 60 vote threshold needed to advance legislation and it is unlikely that any proposal from the House would be entertained by the Senate.

While the president had set March 5 as the deadline for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, at which point he would terminate the program, federal district judges in California and New York have delayed that possibility, thus allowing more time for negotiators to work out a deal. On Monday morning, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the administration's request to rule on the legality of DACA in advance of a U.S. Circuit Court decision. In a one sentence denial of the administration's request, the Court stated, "[i]t is assumed that the Court of Appeals will proceed expeditiously to decide this case." The Court of Appeals is expected to rule on the injunction as early as April.

NCSL Contact: [Susan Frederick](#), [Lucia Bragg](#)

DYK? Since 1870, when Senator Hiram Revels of Mississippi and Representative Joseph Rainey of South Carolina became the first African Americans to serve in Congress, a total of 153 African Americans have served as U.S. Representatives, Delegates, or Senators.

Congressional Appropriators Race to March 23 Deadline

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 included the fifth continuing resolution (CR) for fiscal year (FY) 2018 and set new spending caps on how much the government can spend through FY 2019. Now, lawmakers have just four weeks to craft the 12 annual appropriations bills, or one combined omnibus bill, before March 23 when the government is at risk of another government shutdown. To make things even more complicated, the budget deal also had several informal agreements that were agreed to, but did not give specifics. This includes yearly funding of:

- \$3 billion to "fight against the opioid and mental health crises."
- \$10 billion for infrastructure.
- \$2 billion to "rebuild and improve" veteran's health care.
- \$2 billion for "college affordability."
- \$2.9 billion for the child care development block grant.
- \$1 billion for the National Institutes of Health.

Now, appropriators will have to translate how this funding will look while the party leaders act as chaperones to make sure everybody complies with the deal's stipulations. This also may be the last major legislative vehicle of the year, so you can bet lawmakers are rushing to get their priority bills added to the omnibus. The budget deal reached earlier this month also created a joint committee that is specifically tasked with "advancing reforms to the budget and appropriations process." Last week, House leaders made their selections on who would try to tackle this monstrous task. Speaker Paul Ryan chose Steve Womack (R-Ark.), Rob Woodall (R-Ga.), ~~Jodey Arrington~~ (R-Texas), and Pete Sessions (R-Texas), while Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi chose Nita Lowery (D-N.Y.), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.), Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.) and John Yarmuth (D-Ky.). Senate leaders have yet to name their eight members to the reform committee.

NCSL Contacts: Max Behnke, Jake Lestock

DYK? On Feb. 25, 1863, 155 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln signed the National Currency Act (later called the "National Bank Act"), which was the first attempt to establish a central bank following the failures of the First and Second Banks of the United States. The law aim to address the hodge-podge of local banks, local money, and conflicting regulatory standards that existed before the Civil War. The act allowed for the creation of national banks, planned for a national currency, and gave the federal government the ability to sell war bonds and securities.

House Republicans Signal Willingness to Negotiate with Senate on Banking Reform Measures

House Financial Services Committee Chair, Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas), appears to be open to negotiations with the Senate on Dodd-Frank rollback measures. Hensarling, who has a steady track record of wanting to wholly dismantle Dodd-Frank, now seems to be open to more moderate reforms in a strategic attempt to get legislation to the president's desk.

Hensarling's original banking reform legislation, the Financial CHOICE Act of 2017, would have removed significant portions of Dodd-Frank. His new strategy consists of multiple individual bills amounting to an a la carte offering of banking reform measures. House Republicans are hoping that this strategy is more palatable to moderate senators than the sweeping Financial CHOICE Act, which many deemed D.O.A. in the Senate last year after it passed the House.

~~In his attempt to work with the Senate, Hensarling seems willing to ease up on tough reform proposals designed to slash the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—an agency that has proven to be a political lightning rod since its Dodd-Frank inception in 2010. Bipartisan policies that seem to be on the table in both chambers include relaxing regulatory oversight of credit rating agencies and increasing capital holdings thresholds for small and mid-sized banks that currently require heightened scrutiny under Dodd-Frank.~~

These latest attempts to move bi-partisan banking reform legislation come at the chagrin of some Democrats who feel that such measures would amount to taking a step back after progress made in the post-Great Recession era. If the House and Senate can successfully negotiate the legislation, the president has signaled ardent support for legislation that rolls-back Dodd-Frank in any form.

NCSL Contact: Ethan Wilson

Also of Note...

- Governors to Washington: Stop dithering on guns -- POLITICO

State leaders from both parties implored federal lawmakers this weekend to listen to their states' examples for responsible firearm legislation after the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., increasingly exasperated with the slow pace of debate and halting progress in the nation's capital.

- [Trump's personal pilot 'in the mix' to lead the Federal Aviation Administration](#) – Washington Post

President Trump's personal pilot is "in the mix" to lead the Federal Aviation Administration, a White House official confirmed Sunday night.

- [After testy call with Trump over border wall, Mexican president shelves plan to visit White House](#) – Washington Post

Tentative plans for Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto to make his first visit to the White House to meet with President Trump were scuttled this week after a testy call between the two leaders ended in an impasse over Trump's promised border wall, according to U.S. and Mexican officials.

- [California Democratic Party doesn't endorse Feinstein re-election bid](#) – Fox News

The California Democratic Party will not endorse Sen. Dianne Feinstein's re-election bid this year, with delegates at the party's annual convention giving the majority of votes to her top primary challenger, progressive State Sen. Kevin de Leon.

- [Read the Democratic rebuttal to the Nunes memo, annotated](#) – Washington Post

[Read the Feb. 12, 2018 Capitol-to-Capitol.](#)

Like Capitol-to-Capitol? Have ideas or suggestions for how it can be improved? Please take two minutes to let us know in this [very short survey!](#)

We are always looking for interesting trivia about states, legislatures and American history. If you have some great facts, don't keep them to yourself. Let us know by [clicking here](#). We will likely include them in a future edition of Capitol to Capitol!

If you have comments or suggestions, [please contact Max Behlke](#).

[Read More](#)

Capitol to Capitol is a publication of the National Conference of State Legislatures. NCSL is recognized as a formidable lobbying force in Washington, D.C. NCSL works to protect states from unfunded federal mandates and unwarranted federal pre-emption of state authority, and seeks to provide state legislatures the flexibility they need to innovate and be responsive to the unique needs of their residents. NCSL's advocacy is guided by the policy directives and resolutions adopted during NCSL's Legislative Summit.



© National Conference of State Legislatures

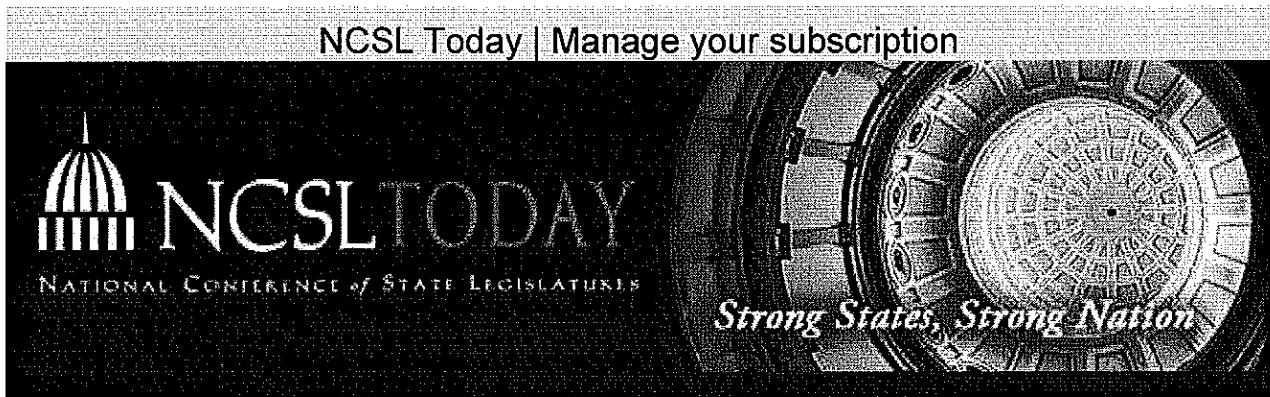
Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington: 202-624-5400

[Unsubscribe from these messages.](#)

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 11:02 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: The high cost of higher education



TOP NEWS Jan. 25, 2016

The high cost of higher education

Stateline

Paying for college has become a financial strain on middle-class families across the country, and a source of anxiety for recent graduates saddled with student debt.



California seeks volunteers for mileage fee pilot program

The Los Angeles Times

The California Department of Transportation is seeking 5,000 volunteers for an experimental program that will charge motorists a fee based on how far they drive -- a proposal that could replace the state gas tax as a way to fund highway maintenance and repairs.

Employing people with disabilities

Find out more about how states have seized the opportunity to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the workforce through a wide variety of policy approaches.

Alaska budget calls for fewest government workers since 2007

Juneau Empire

Alaska's state government will continue to shrink.



The News Reactor

Indiana Senate passes bill to open adoption records

Indianapolis Star

Adoptees born between 1941 and 1994 would be able to access their birth records under a bill passed Thursday by the Indiana Senate.

West Virginia Senate passes right-to-work on party line

Charleston Gazette and Mail

The Senate passed a controversial "right-to-work" bill Thursday, by the barest of margins, just hours or days before a state Supreme Court ruling could switch the balance of power in the Senate.

Pennsylvania Legislature trapped in budgetary twilight zone

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The lack of a completed state budget more than halfway through the fiscal year is giving rise to a number of strange and unprecedented situations in Harrisburg.

January LegisBriefs

Women in state legislatures



States will deal with President Obama's views on state of elections

I decided to read the State of the Union address last night.



© National Conference of State Legislatures
Denver: 303-364-7700
Washington: 202-624-5400

You are subscribed to ncsi_today as justin.zielinski@ohiohouse.gov. To unsubscribe, send a blank email to: leave-109697-4499788.076123352033b13b7dfed4be37dcf324@lists.ncsl.org

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 6:05 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, March 21, 2016
Attachments: Mar21.htm; Mar21House.htm; Mar21Senate.htm;
160321dayplan.htm



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Ohio Report for Monday, March 21, 2016

Energy Companies Remain Hopeful For March Ruling On PPAs

Controlling Board Approves Funding For Elections Training, Teacher Certification, Licensure

Riedel Plans To Pursue Right To Work, Push For Economic Development After Toppling Incumbent

Kasich Lags In Money Race, Walks Back Statement On Garland, Announces Arizona Leadership Team And Campaign Stops...

Agency Briefs: AG Rejects Another Pot Petition; Review Of EPA Rules Delayed; Painesville Man Busted For Workers' Comp Fraud; Ballot Board To Meet; Sebring Gets Funds

Politics Notebook: Ramos Looks To Add Early Voting Sites; Portman On Air With Web Ad, Defends Supreme Court Decision; Clyde Up For Award

Capitol Scene: Former Dispatch Editor Garrison Joins Yost Team

Attorney General's Opinion

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

House

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

Copyright, 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.



Volume #85, Report #54 -- Monday, March 21, 2016

Energy Companies Remain Hopeful For March Ruling On PPAs

For more than a year and a half, AEP and FirstEnergy have waited for the Public Utilities Commission's orders on their controversial Power Purchase Agreements - decisions that have been expected to be made in the first quarter of 2016.

But with just one more meeting of the PUCO scheduled for this month, it's possible the wait for one or both decisions could stretch into the second quarter.

The PUCO is scheduled to meet just once more this month - a March 30 meeting for which the agenda has not yet been finalized. The commission will not meet March 23.

Whether the agenda will include one or both cases hasn't yet been determined, but PUCO spokesman Matt Schilling said any belief the ruling will come in the first quarter has been conjecture.

"For what it's worth the commission's never indicated when a decision may be," Mr. Schilling said. "There is lots of speculation out there, but we don't know."

The companies involved and their opponents have been anticipating first quarter orders. Should a decision not come in two weeks' time, the cases a year and a half or more in the making would be poised to continue.

The utilities are hopeful a decision arrives sooner, rather than later. In FirstEnergy's case, for example, the company has two energy auctions scheduled in April under the Electric Security Plan scheduled to begin June 1.

"So we're very hopeful we can get an order in this case so we can proceed with these auctions," spokesman Doug Colafella said. "Because as of June 1, we don't have power supply purchased for our customers."

"I think everyone is hopeful a decision may come as of next meeting. But obviously it's up to commission to put it on the agenda."

AEP spokeswoman Tammy Ridout said the company is "hopeful the commission will issue an order quickly."

"They have all the evidence in hand and we think they should approve the settlement agreement we've proposed," she said. "It's been a long process and we're ready for it to move forward,"

Potentially complicating matters is the ongoing complaints against both PPAs before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Ohio Consumers' Counsel in February urged the PUCO to delay ruling until the FERC cases are settled. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 17, 2016)

In their latest filing, the Electric Power Supply Association argued that the companies have failed to rebut the concerns raised in the complaints and FERC "should issue an order as soon as possible granting the complaints."

The group cites opposition from PJM, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Northwest Ohio Aggregation Council and others as showing the merits of its case.

"It is rare to see these parties and suppliers in complete agreement on wholesale market issues, and that they are should be a clear sign that, to paraphrase Shakespeare, something is rotten in the state of Ohio," the group wrote.

In their testimony, AEP and FirstEnergy both argue FERC has no jurisdiction in the matter and that the complaints are baseless because the allegations of consumer harm are "misplaced." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 24, 2016)

Controlling Board Approves Funding For Elections Training, Teacher Certification, Licensure

Controlling Board members approved \$92,500 in funding for the Secretary of State's office to hold elections training in Cleveland, though one lawmaker questioned why the event wasn't slated for Columbus.

The training event has recently been held either in Columbus as a two-day event or at five locations around the state as one-day events. Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) asked if having the event in Cleveland could affect turnout for people in distant parts of the state. If turnout is low, he said, it could mean the office would have to come back before the board for more money.

Veronica Sherman, chief financial officer for the secretary of state's office, said she didn't expect to need more money.

"I think the cost that we have laid out here is the high end of the parameter and we would not expect to have to come back for more money," she said.

The office wanted to have only one event because it allows for more intensive training, she said.

Sen. Tom Sawyer (D-Akron) questioned part of a request from the Department of Education for \$3.2 million over two years for teacher certification and licensure, which includes the Office of Professional Conduct. The proposal cited an increase in the number of open cases, partially because of high-profile data manipulation scandals.

Sen. Sawyer asked if the department was targeting any particular types of schools or other programs in investigating data manipulation. Aaron Rausch, the department's director of budget and school funding, said they focused on individuals, not broad types of school districts.

"We appreciate that you don't want to go out on a witch hunt, but having said that, knowing that you're well targeted gives us more comfort," Sen. Sawyer said.

Mr. Rausch said the data manipulation cases are part of the increased load at the Office of Professional Conduct, but are not the only reason for the increase. Other things that have increased the caseload include a program that tracks the backgrounds of teachers and employees after they have been hired, finding any new hits to their record while they are working.

"Just in general there has been an increase in the caseload of the Office of Professional Conduct," he said.

The Controlling Board also approved a new contract the Department of Administrative Services reached with the Fraternal Order of Police Ohio Labor Council. The contract covers more than 500 employees statewide in eight state agencies, said Kristen Rankin, interim deputy director for the Office of Collective Bargaining.

The contract runs through June 30, 2018, and is similar to past contracts, though changes include switching from an annual clothing allowance to reimbursement and modifying the drug-free workplace policy to prohibit employees from working if they have blood alcohol contents above 0.02.

A request for \$1.45 million from the Development Services Agency for programs aimed at revitalizing distressed communities was deferred at the agency's request.

Other items approved by the board included requests for (Agenda):

- \$4.4 million from the Court of Claims for the payment of a wrongful imprisonment settlement for Kwame Ajamu, formerly Ronnie Bridgeman, and Wiley Bridgeman.
- \$615,852 from the Department of Natural Resources for geological mapping.
- \$1.9 million from the Ohio State University for a higher education system maintenance and upgrade project. The system manages data on student enrollment, courses, financial aid and more.
- \$3.1 million from OSU for roof and electrical repairs for three buildings on the Marion campus.
- \$4 million from the Development Services Agency for affordable housing assistance grants.

- \$1.9 million from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for a number of projects to clean up polluted sites.

Riedel Plans To Pursue Right To Work, Push For Economic Development After Toppling Incumbent

Although he was an outsider in a primary race against an incumbent, businessman Craig Riedel has had no shortage of attention from Columbus since winning his bid to head to the statehouse in January.

The Defiance Republican edged out Rep. Tony Burkley (R-Paulding) in last week's primary to represent Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert and part of Auglaize counties.

Lacking a Democrat competitor in the November election, Mr. Riedel, 49, will be headed to the Statehouse next year. After a brief hiatus from campaigning, he said he'll begin crafting his agenda by meeting with fellow lawmakers who've already begun courting him.



Craig Riedel

"I'm in a major learning curve right now. I'm going to take the summer to meet with those other representatives who've reached out to me that want to talk to me and let me know what I might expect as to how things operate," said the newcomer, who had never run for a political office before retiring from a management position at Nucor Corporation in July to pursue the House seat.

Mr. Riedel said he'll also be familiarizing himself with the capital city, having only spent a brief amount of time at the Statehouse during the last General Assembly.

Ironically, that visit was a "shadowing" of Rep. Burkley while the incumbent performed his state rep duties. Unbeknownst to his host, Mr. Riedel would soon be angling for his job.

Mr. Riedel said he asked Mr. Burkley for the opportunity because he wanted to learn more about the legislature.

When the House GOP first threw its financial support behind Rep. Burkley, Mr. Riedel said he was confused because no one in the party had gotten to know him. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 4, 2016)

It's customary for both parties to protect their incumbents, especially in key elections where candidates have well-financed and organized campaigns like that of Mr. Riedel. However, the winner of Tuesday's election said he was able to pull off a victory despite the powers-that-be because voters trust him.

"I think the people we met, they saw the sincerity in my words and my life and they had the confidence in me that I was going to go to Columbus and truly represent them and that I would not be afraid to be criticized or that I wouldn't be afraid to go against the line when I felt it was necessary," he said.

At the risk of upsetting the party, Mr. Riedel said that while he's planning to vote mostly with his peers, he won't be afraid to lead on conservative issues that haven't yet been tackled, such as making Ohio a so-called "right to work" state.

Working with Nucor Corporation for 27 years, he said he saw a number of businesses choose to settle in neighboring states such as Indiana or Michigan because workers in those states are not required to join unions.

"I understand why unions may be necessary but what I believe is an individual should have a right to choose whether or not they want to belong to a union or not," he said. "I think it's wrong that you're required in Ohio to join a union if there is a union in your facility. You should have that freedom of choice."

Working in private business his entire career, Mr. Riedel said he understands how important teamwork is to being successful, however sticking to one's principals is just as important.

"I'm always going to be very respectful and of the Republican Party and I'm very conservative, but I'm always going to do what I think is right and there are going to be times when that goes divergent from what the Republicans would like me to do," he said.

"My bosses are my God and the constituents of the 82nd House District. That's who I'm going to answer to. I'm always going to do what I believe is the right thing to do," Mr. Riedel continued.

Having already knocked on the doors of 4,400 constituents with his wife, Danette, leading up to the election, he said he'll continue meeting with people in his district and find out what issues they care most about.

Another priority will be meeting with business and civic groups to determine the best way to meet his goals of reducing taxes and business regulations as well as spurring economic development, Mr. Riedel said.

Kasich Lags In Money Race, Walks Back Statement On Garland, Announces Arizona Leadership Team And Campaign Stops..

Gov. John Kasich trails competitors Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and billionaire Donald Trump in the race to secure enough delegates to secure the Republican Party's nomination for president.

He also trails in the money race.

Gov. Kasich reported \$1.25 million on hand at the beginning of March, according to his latest campaign finance report filed with the Federal Election Commission. In February, he raised \$3.4 million and spent \$3.6 million.

Sen. Cruz began the month of March with \$8 million on hand. He raised \$11.8 million and spent \$17.5 million in February.

Mr. Trump had \$1.6 million on hand at the beginning of March. He raised just \$2 million in February, but loaned his campaign nearly \$7 million during the month, bring the total to \$24.3 million since entering the campaign. He spent \$9.5 million in February.

Garland: Over the weekend, the governor was forced to walk back a comment he made about President Barack Obama's pick to fill the seat of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

During a taped interview for CBS' "Face the Nation," Gov. Kasich suggested he would consider nominating Merrick Garland to a seat on the bench.

He later said that statement was made "in an effort to be polite."

"Look, you know, Garland's - I'm going have my own picks for Supreme Court," he said. "You know, the fact is, I said that they ought to meet him and talk to him, and I'm not going to pick somebody who's, you know, obviously not a respecter of the Second Amendment. I don't want people making law and so nobody should be confused, worked up or upset. He's not going to be my pick for the Supreme Court."

Also, during a taped interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Gov. Kasich ruled out the possibility of being the running mate of either Sen. Cruz or Mr. Trump.

Leadership Team: Ahead of Tuesday's primary contest in Arizona, Gov. Kasich announced his leadership team there that includes two state lawmakers, two former chiefs of staff to governors, a disability rights advocate and several activists.

"We have a great team in Arizona," Gov. Kasich said. "I am very appreciative of their help to share our positive message to strengthen our country and bring real solutions to the America people."

Campaign Stops: Gov. Kasich on Monday was one of four presidential candidates scheduled to address the American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference.

In his speech to AIPAC, Gov. Kasich made a pitch based on experience, according to *Politico*.

On Wednesday, he is scheduled to hold a town hall event in Wisconsin, where he picked up the endorsement of former Treasurer Jack Voight.

Draft Kasich Movement: According to *New York Times Magazine* writer Robert Draper, the GOP establishment is not rushing to get on board the bandwagon for Gov. Kasich to secure the party's nomination in a brokered process.

According to Mr. Draper, party insiders are rejecting the movement because of his poor showing in most states, along with his support for Medicaid expansion and embrace of Common Core, despite helping to balance the budget as chairman of the House Budget Committee.

"But there's a third layer of resistance to Kasich, one with which Cruz can identify: Many Beltway Republicans don't like him," he writes.

"No doubt Chairman Kasich's strict budgets made life unpleasant for a few lobbyists. But so did his demeanor - which, D.C. veterans say, was often sanctimonious and rude," he continued.

Campaign Continues: Despite needing more than 100 percent of remaining elected delegates to secure the party's nomination, Gov. Kasich on Monday again reiterated that he has no plans to get out of the race.

Speaking on CNN's "New Day" on Monday morning, the governor said a brokered convention will be "an extension of this primary process."

"If I'm the only one that can beat Hillary in the fall, why would anybody say I should leave? I mean that's just -- that's nuts," he said.

Agency Briefs: AG Rejects Another Pot Petition; Review Of EPA Rules Delayed; Painesville Man Busted For Workers' Comp Fraud; Ballot Board To Meet; Sebring Gets Funds

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday rejected petition language for a ballot measure to make medicinal marijuana legal in Ohio.

The petition, Medicinal Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Amendment, was submitted by Grassroots OH with more than 2,000 signatures.

However, Mr. DeWine found two defects in the summary language, including the lack of references to proposed amendment language that "industrial hemp and medicinal cannabis shall be researched, regulated, and promoted by the state in a manner substantially similar to other agricultural crops" and another section that states 21-year-olds have "equal opportunity to access, ownership, and employment."

On Friday, Mr. DeWine rejected petition language filed by Ohio Medical Cannabis Care LLC based on 11 defects. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 18, 2016)

Since 2011, Mr. DeWine has rejected petition language for 13 measures dealing with marijuana.

A decision on the proposed language of another medical marijuana ballot measure is scheduled to be released Friday.

JCARR: Amid concerns raised by some municipalities, the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review put off a hearing on Ohio EPA rules that came out of legislation (SB 1) designed to deal with toxic algal bloom in Lake Erie.

The regulations include monitoring and reporting of harmful algal blooms in public water systems.

"We just felt there had to be a few more questions asked," Chairman Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) said following the meeting.

According to Sen. Uecker, the rules are expected to be back on the agenda for review at the April 4 meeting.

Bureau of Workers' Compensation: A Lake County man was convicted of workers' compensation fraud after the agency's Special Investigations Department captured video of him working as a handyman.

Mark Walker, who was receiving temporary total disability, was ordered to repay nearly \$75,000 in benefits he collected over a five-year period. He was also sentenced to 12 to 18 months incarceration, which was suspended for three years of community control.

"The purpose of temporary total disability is to give injured workers time to recuperate, and work activity during that recovery period is prohibited," BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer said. "Mr. Walker deceptively returned to employment for several years and continued to collect thousands of dollars from BWC."

Secretary of State: The Ballot Board is scheduled to meet Wednesday and will take up two ballot measures, one a proposed initiative designed to boost the clean energy industry and the other a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban former lawmakers from lobbying for two years after leaving office, and cap most legislators' pay at the annual median household income in Ohio.

Sebring Water Grant: The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded the Village of Sebring a \$400,000 grant to assist with water quality improvements, a development welcomed by state and federal lawmakers.

"This grant will help provide much needed upgrades to Sebring's water system but the work is far from over," Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said in a statement. "We need to acknowledge that water quality issues will continue to plague our communities until our state makes an honest investment into fixing our crumbling underground water and sewer infrastructure."

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman stated, "I'm pleased that federal authorities are helping Sebring ensure its water supply is safe. As we move forward, I hope the Senate will act in a bipartisan way to help Ohio and other areas of the country who have similar needs. I will continue to work in a bipartisan manner to ensure that all Ohioans have access to clean and safe drinking water."

Lead-tainted water in the village and officials' slow reaction in alerting residents has lead to fallout at the local level, where the Ohio EPA announced violations, and at the state level, where two agency employees were fired following a review of the circumstances. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 17, 2016)

At the federal level, both Mr. Portman and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) have backed related legislation on clean water issues, which have come to the forefront in recent months due to lead tainted water in Flint, Mich., Sebring and elsewhere. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 3, 2016)

Politics Notebook: Ramos Looks To Add Early Voting Sites; Portman On Air With Web Ad, Defends Supreme Court Decision; Clyde Up For Award

One state lawmaker is advocating for an increased number of early voting sites.

Rep. Dan Ramos plans legislation that would allow counties to have one early voting location for every 60,000 residents. The additional early voting sites would require the approval of a county board of commissioners or, in case of Cuyahoga and Summit counties, the charted governing body.

"With early voting for the primary recently concluding in Ohio, I believe it is time to examine and address an inequality in the system," he said. "With such variation in population, a 'one-size fits all' approach that limits the number of early voting centers does not adequately encourage public participation in the democratic process."

Under the proposal, 23 counties would be eligible to open at least one additional early voting center, according to Rep. Ramos.

"Voting is a right central to what makes us American, and this bill expands access to that right," Ramos said. "Allowing more early voting locations closer to home will benefit both

suburban and township voters outside of the city center, as well as lower income voters with limited transportation options."

Senate Race: The campaign of Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) is up with a web ad touting his work to help Hebron-based ArmorSource secure a federal contract.

According to the ad, the company has added 200 jobs since inking the deal.

In a Sunday op-ed for the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, Sen. Portman defended his decision to join with fellow Senate Republicans in refusing to hold hearings on President Barack Obama's choice to fill the seat of former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

"I have concluded that the best thing for the country is to trust the American people to weigh in and to have the confirmation process take place in a less partisan atmosphere," he wrote. "Awaiting the result of a democratic election, rather than having a nomination fight in this contentious election-year environment, will give the nominee more legitimacy and, as then - Senator Biden pointed out, better preserve the institutional credibility of the Senate and the court."

The decision has earned praise from the Judicial Crisis Network, which is launching a \$2 million TV, radio and digital ad campaign in six states, including Ohio.

"The goal of this effort is to inform and alert the citizens of Ohio that in opposing President Obama's third liberal nominee to the Supreme Court, Senator Portman is also opposing liberal domination of the court and that, with the presidential election so close, he is right to allow the people of Ohio a voice in this lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court," Carrie Severino, chief counsel for JCN and a former U.S. Supreme Court clerk, said in a statement.

"As a federal judge, Garland has made rulings undermining the Second Amendment rights of Ohioans as well as defended expansive, unchecked power of federal agencies such as the EPA, decisions that harm Ohio small businesses," she continued.

The move has drawn criticism from Democrats, including Sen. Portman's general election opponent, former Gov. Ted Strickland. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 16, 2016)

Sen. Portman also announced on Monday the addition of Michawn Rich as his campaign's communications director.

"We are very excited to have Michawn Rich join us as we kick off the general election," campaign manager Corry Bliss said. "Michawn's discipline and experience in competitive races - including 2014's most competitive congressional race in the country - will be a great addition to our team. She is a seasoned communicator who will help us contrast Rob's vision for a brighter future with why Ohio can't go back to Ted Strickland's Ohio when the state lost over 350,000 jobs and ranked 48th in job creation."

Clyde Nominated For Award: Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) on Monday urged people to vote for Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) to receive the Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award by EMILY's List.

"Kathleen is one of Ohio's biggest rising stars. She's an outspoken advocate for voting rights, and even in our state's conservative legislature, Kathleen has proven an effective fighter for Ohio's women and workers," he said.

Ms. Clyde also announced that she will make stops in Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati with author Ari Berman to discuss his new book, *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*.

Capitol Scene: Former Dispatch Editor Garrison Joins Yost Team

State Auditor Dave Yost said Monday he's hired Ben Garrison, the former *Columbus Dispatch* editor, as his communications director.

He replaces Carrie Bartunek, who was named senior policy adviser for public affairs.

"Ben's extensive media experience and management expertise will be a great addition to our office," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "He is a trusted name in Columbus and all over the state of Ohio, and we are fortunate to have him join our team."

Mr. Garrison, 52, previously worked for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *Toledo Blade*. He starts his new post April 4 with an annual salary of \$105,000.

"The state auditor's office embodies those things that I always tried to do as a journalist: be transparent, provide public access and hold people accountable. I have a great deal of respect for the way Dave Yost has conducted himself as state auditor and as Delaware County prosecutor. His decisions are rooted in doing the right things by taxpayers without regard to politics," Garrison said.

"The position of director of communications provides me the opportunity to continue my public service, to help citizens understand how their money is being spent, and to better understand government operations -- something I've been fascinated with since my earliest days as a reporter."

Mr. Garrison, a Pickerington resident, holds a journalism degree from Bowling Green State University.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-010. Requested by Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Joseph R. Burkard.
SYLLABUS:

The judges of a court of common pleas, in the reasonable exercise of their discretion, may expend moneys generated by the court's special projects fee imposed pursuant to R.C. 2303.201(E)(1) to purchase incentives that reward a participant's compliance with the terms of the court's drug court program, provided the judges determine that the incentives contribute to the efficient operation of the court.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, March 23

Ballot Board, Senate Finance Haring Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 2:30 p.m. (The board will meet to determine whether each of the proposed constitutional amendments known as the "Ohio Clean Energy Initiative" and the "Ohio Ethics First Amendment" contain only one proposed amendment.)

Thursday, March 24

BWC Nominating Council, Conf. Rms. B&C, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 7

Optical Dispensers Board, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, April 6

Senate Republican candidate Frank Hoagland fundraiser, The Galley, 203 Second St., Marietta, 4:30 p.m., (Host - \$1,000; Sponsor - \$500; Individual - \$350 to Hoagland for Ohio)

Tuesday, April 12

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP Legislative Reception, 52 East Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1,000; Sponsor - \$500; Individual - \$350 to The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the # after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



House Activity for Monday, March 21, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 492 ■ **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS** (Rogers, J., Driehaus, D.) To create the Supplemental State Capital Improvements Pilot Program funded by a temporary transfer from the Budget Stabilization Fund and to make an appropriation. Am. 131.43, 131.44, and 164.01 and to enact section 164.18.

HB 493 ■ **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING** (Sears, B., Ryan, S.) To make changes in the child abuse and neglect reporting law. Am.307.627, 2151.421, 2151.422, 2151.99, 3701.701, 5153.16, 5153.175, and 5153.176.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the ■ after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Senate Activity for Monday, March 21, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 297 ■

STUDENT EXPULSIONS (Hughes, J.) With respect to the expulsion of a student from a school district, community school, or STEM school for communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds. Am. 3313.66 and 3313.661 and to enact section 3313.668.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the ■ after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, March 22

Legislative Committees

Canceled: Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

Canceled: Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

- If needed

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 8 a.m.

Event Planner

Presidential primaries/caucuses in Arizona, Utah & Idaho (Democratic)

ACLU of Ohio and Ohio Justice and Policy Center news conference to release criminal justice report, Judicial Room, Sheraton at Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) news conference on bill to remove firearms in certain domestic violence situations, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

Rep. Greta Johnson (D-Akron) and Sen. Capri Cafaro (D-Hubbard) news conference on gender diversification legislation, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 2 p.m.

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Tally Ho Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$1,000; Event Sponsor \$500; Individual Attendee \$350 to Troy Balderson for State Senator)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Gold Rm., 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000, \$500 or \$350 to Citizens for Hottinger)

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Crystal Rm., 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000, \$500 or \$350 to Citizens for Kevin Bacon)

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Claddaugh, 585 S. Front St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Hoste: \$1,000; Sponsor \$500; Individual attendee: \$350 to Friends of Bill Coley)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

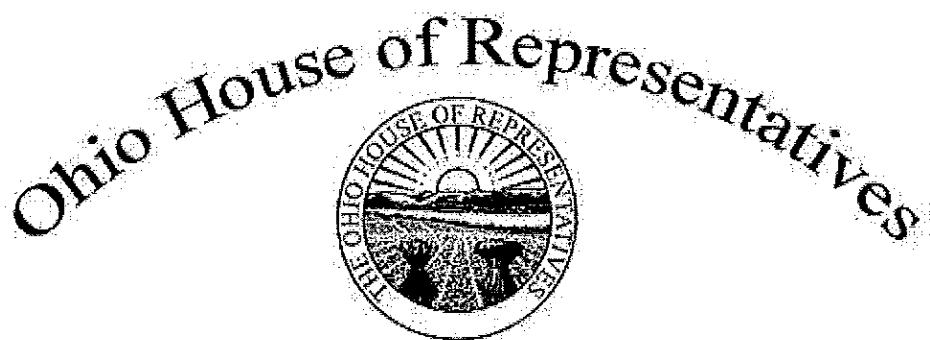
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 1:53 PM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request_Public Sector Right to Work_Becker.pdf



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: June 24, 2016
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

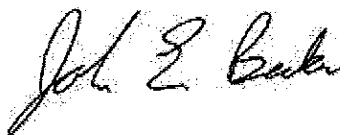
I will soon be introducing a public sector right-to-work bill.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov. The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, Wednesday, June 29, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration.

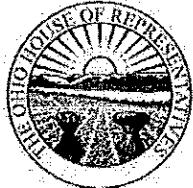


John Becker
65th House District



Legislative Aide
State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 466-8134
roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: June 24, 2016
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

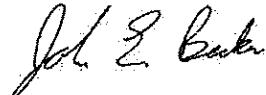
I will soon be introducing a public sector right-to-work bill.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

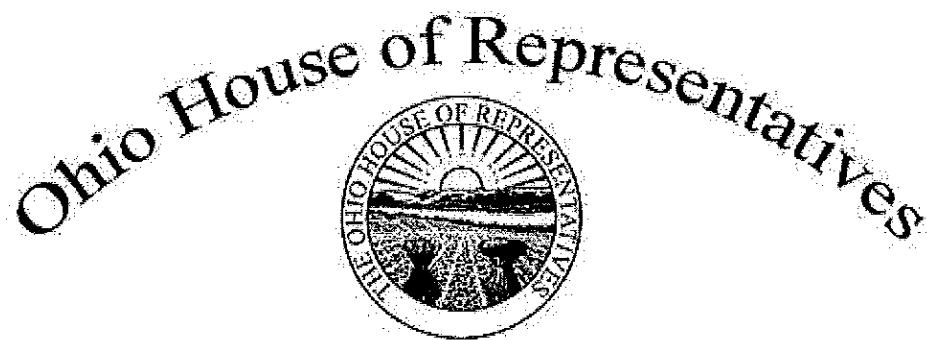
If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov. The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, Wednesday, June 29, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration.



John Becker
65th House District

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 1:51 PM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: REMINDER: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request_Public Sector Right to Work_Becker.pdf



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: June 27, 2016
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

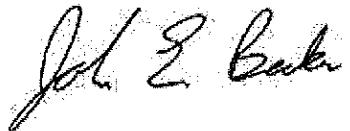
I will soon be introducing a public sector right-to-work bill.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov. The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, Wednesday, June 29, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration.



John Becker
65th House District

Roanna Thawley
Legislative Aide
State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 466-8134
roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: June 24, 2016
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

I will soon be introducing a public sector right-to-work bill.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov. The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, Wednesday, June 29, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Becker".

John Becker
65th House District

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 6:35 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Thursday, June 30, 2016

Thursday, June 30, 2016

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [ODAg Shifts Exotic Animal Enforcement Focus to Smaller Facilities](#)
- [CSRAB Launches Committee to Review Statehouse Art, Mulls Themed Lighting](#)
- [Lawsuit Backers Challenging Voter Purge Weigh Appeal](#)
- [ACLU Praises Revised RNC Rules after Successful Challenge](#)
- [Becker Introduces 'Right to Work' for Public Employees](#)
- [SAK Testing Nabs Serial Rapist, Secures Forensic Center Grant](#)
- [ODE Releases Overview of Report Card Components Due for First Letter Grades in September](#)
- [Portman-Led Investigation Finds Cable Companies Overbilled Ohio, National Customers](#)
- [Stateline: Amid Opioid Epidemic, More Schools Offer 'Sober Dorms'](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ODOT](#)
- [People in the News: Stu Davis](#)
- [Executive Actions: Appointments](#)

© 2016 Hannah News Service, Inc., Columbus, Ohio. Unauthorized redistribution or reproduction prohibited.

Hannah News Service, Inc. | 21 W. Broad Street, Suite 1000, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614.227.5820 | www.hannah.com

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 8:23 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Gongwer News Service Ohio Media Clips



Ohio News & Opinion For July 1, 2016

News

New attorneys' fees in Ohio to fund legal aid for poor ([Associated Press, 7/1/2016](#))

How will medical marijuana affect your workplace? ([Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/1/2016](#))

Joe Biden talks health care, praises doctors in Cleveland ([Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016](#))

Obamacare tax hike scheduled to hit retirees next year, but Sens. Brown, Portman want to stop it ([Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016](#))

Rep. John Becker proposes right-to-work bill for public employees ([Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016](#))

Republican National Convention secure zone revealed: Ohio Politics Roundup ([Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016](#))

Rob Portman's campaign, PAC each announce new ads targeting Ted Strickland ([Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016](#))

Sen. Tim Kaine accepted clothes, vacation as gifts: Today's number in politics ([Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016](#))

Senate panel advances Carole Rendon's nomination for U.S. attorney of Ohio's northern district (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Voting rights activists say election lawsuit claiming Jon Husted illegally purged voters is not over (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Controversial NRA ad attacking Clinton airing mostly in Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Ohio Politics Now: Will Hillary Clinton consider Richard Cordray as a running mate? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Portman coal radio ad targets southern Ohio voters (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

State, troopers union return to contract talks (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

GOP Convention: Who's going to speak? Where are the sponsors? (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Local hospitals among hundreds with multiple privacy complaints (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Taxpayers shelling out fewer dollars for fireworks displays (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Editorials

Commentary: The Supreme Court's Texas abortion ruling reignites a battle over facts (Canton Repository, 7/1/2016)

Six ways to make Ohio's online charter schools more accountable: editorial board (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Perpetuating preferences (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Put babies over politics (Toledo Blade, 7/1/2016)

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

Copyright, 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

This message is provided to you as part of your subscription to Gongwer News Service. [Discontinue these messages.](#)

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 8:27 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 7/1/2016

HOUSE E-CLIPS 07/01/16



NEW ATTORNEYS' FEES IN OHIO TO FUND LEGAL AID FOR POOR

New attorneys' fees approved by the Ohio Supreme Court will help fund legal services for poor and disadvantaged Ohioans.



STATE, TROOPERS UNION RETURN TO CONTRACT TALKS

The state is heading back to the bargaining table to work on a contract with the Ohio State Troopers Association after the union soundly rejected a tentative agreement.

CITY OF COLUMBUS ISSUES NITRATE WARNING FOR TAP WATER

By 2018, city water officials say, they won't have to issue advisories like the one Thursday, when high nitrate levels in drinking water in parts of the Columbus area triggered a warning for pregnant women and babies.

OHIO POLITICS NOW: WILL HILLARY CLINTON CONSIDER RICHARD CORDRAY AS A RUNNING MATE?

Democrats in Columbus are apparently buzzing with the possibility of another Ohioan being considered as presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's running mate.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

OHIO SUPREME COURT TO HEAR SPRINGFIELD RED LIGHT CAMERA LAW CHALLENGE

The Ohio Supreme Court will consider Springfield's challenge to red light camera laws, weighing city leaders' argument that the new regulations violate their local authority.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL: CITIES CANNOT SET THEIR OWN MINIMUM WAGE

As the debate rages in Cleveland over a proposal to set the city's minimum wage at \$15 an hour starting in January, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine on Thursday issued an opinion stating that municipalities cannot legally set their own minimum wage.

REP. JOHN BECKER PROPOSES RIGHT-TO-WORK BILL FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

And Ohio lawmaker on Thursday introduced a right-to-work bill for public employees. But like a private employee bill proposed last fall, it's unlikely to pass.

VOTING RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SAY ELECTION LAWSUIT CLAIMING JON HUSTED

ILLEGALLY PURGED VOTERS IS NOT OVER

A day after Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted scored a win in federal court, voting rights activists say the case is not over.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION SECURE ZONE REVEALED: OHIO

POLITICS ROUNDUP

Countdown to Cleveland: With 17 days to go until the start of the Republican National Convention, we now know more about the boundaries of the high security perimeter surrounding Quicken Loans Arena. Read more from cleveland.com's Andrew J. Tobias' report.

SIX WAYS TO MAKE OHIO'S ONLINE CHARTER SCHOOLS MORE ACCOUNTABLE:

EDITORIAL BOARD

Led by state Sen. Peggy Lehner, the downstate Republican who chairs the Ohio Senate's education committee, the Ohio legislature did a yeoman's job last year of shoring up oversight of the state's much-ridiculed kindergarten-through-12th-grade charter school system.

THE ENQUIRER

STATE AUDIT: FOOD STAMPS ISSUED TO 36 DEAD PEOPLE

Dead people, duplicates and out-of-state purchases were just some of the fraudulent activities discovered in an audit of Ohio's food stamp program, according to State Auditor David Yost.

BECKER INTRODUCES PUBLIC RIGHT-TO-WORK BILL

Rep. John Becker knows many fellow Republicans, including Gov. John Kasich, have little interest in an Ohio right-to-work law, but that didn't stop him from offering one anyway.

HOW WILL MEDICAL MARIJUANA AFFECT YOUR WORKPLACE?

Andy Kaplan has been practicing law with the Cincinnati office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease for more than 30 years.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

PANEL WEIGHS SUPPORT FOR CHILD CUSTODY CASES

Deann Sanders' insurance company paid for the diagnosis of her severely autistic son at the age of 2, but offered no coverage for services.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 8:34 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Gongwer News Service Ohio Media Clips



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Ohio News & Opinion For July 5, 2016

News

Ohio usually a swing state, nearly always a bellwether (Associated Press, 7/5/2016)

Ohio's new schools superintendent gets on the job, looking for input from educators (Canton Repository, 7/5/2016)

Portman, Strickland focus on Ohio's drug crisis in Senate campaigns (Canton Repository, 7/5/2016)

Ad Watch: NRA says Strickland 'sold out' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

Becker introduces public right-to-work bill (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

Trump announces visit to Sharonville Convention Center (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

'Raise Up Cleveland' continues \$15 minimum wage campaign, despite attorney general's opinion: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

No statewide ballot measures planned for Ohio's November election (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Prospective new political parties in Ohio face filing deadline: What to watch for Tuesday (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Republican National Convention secure zone revealed: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Capitol Insider: Even after Kasich's campaign, state says it can't tally, release security bill (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Capitol Insider: Who in Ohio Democratic Party helped John Raphael? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Dispute over school funding embroils new federal education law (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Medicaid tax change to cost Ohio, counties (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Ohio quietly gave larger raises to non-union managers (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Portman, Strickland focus on Ohio's drug crisis in Senate campaigns (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

State asks feds for permission to charge new Medicaid fees (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

GOP Convention: Who's going to speak? Where are the sponsors? (Dayton Daily News, 7/5/2016)

Ohio law requires Tdap, meningitis shots (Toledo Blade, 7/5/2016)

Portman launching \$1M TV ad campaign (Toledo Blade, 7/5/2016)

Editorials

Voices of protest in Cleveland (Akron Beacon Journal, 7/5/2016)

Impact of heroin addiction on driving statistics (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

George Voinovich's legacy of collaborative politics must be revived: Joe Lieberman (Opinion) (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Ohio's restrictive abortion-clinic laws need to be revised after Supreme Court's Texas ruling: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Trump's message resonates in Ohio coal country: Thomas Suddes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

New rules to let drone use soar (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Voters want to rein in government (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

Copyright, 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

This message is provided to you as part of your subscription to Gongwer News Service. Discontinue these messages.

From: Ohio House Republican Communications
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 1:04 PM
Subject: Week in Review 6/27/16 – 7/4/16



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/27/16 – 7/4/16

The Vindicator: New Ohio state laws and their impact, to take effect in August, September

There were big bills that were signed into law – a \$2.6 billion capital budget with projects across the states, and a fast-paced medical marijuana effort that will add Ohio to the list of states allowing the drug for specified medical conditions.

Sandusky Register: Sandusky State Theatre will be upgraded soon

State Sen. Randy Gardner, R-Bowling Green, and state Rep. Steve Arndt, R-Port Clinton, both included the Sandusky State Theatre in a list of local projects that needed support.

Enquirer: Becker introduces public right-to-work bill

Becker, R-Union Township in Clermont County, called his proposal a "win-win" for both sides: it would allow public sector workers to opt out of union representation and dues. But those who opt out would not be eligible for union protections.

Akron Legal News: New heroin law takes aim at drug dealers

"This legislation will hold the drug dealers who are poisoning our neighborhoods accountable while we continue to help the addicted seek treatment," said Rep. Jonathan Dever, R-Madeira, a sponsor of the bill. "There is no silver bullet for ridding Ohio of heroin, but this law is a part of a solution that includes education and treatment options."

Journal-News: New addiction treatment center opens in West Chester

State Rep. Margy Conditt, R-Liberty Twp, was also at the ribbon-cutting and she feels that Lumiere can help save lives and will be a benefit to Butler County.

Dispatch: Law fills a gap in paramedic care

He and state Rep. Tim Ginter, R-Salem, were especially concerned that paramedics couldn't provide an antidote to police dogs that, while working, were poisoned by prescription pain drugs or heroin.

Ellwood City Ledger: New law supports first responders who treat injured pets

Ohio's law, which follows a similar action by Colorado in 2014, came about after Bob Swickard, the director of an EMS service in a small town in northeastern Ohio, contacted state Republican Rep. Tim Ginter with concerns about a recent rash of on-duty injuries to police dogs.

Springfield News-Sun: Buck Creek State Park gets \$1.4M in upgrades

The state held a dedication ceremony for the cabins at the state park Thursday.

The Independent: Rep. Christina Hagan shepherds Epi-pen bill

House Bill 200, sponsored by State Rep. Christina Hagan, permits public establishments, such as restaurants, swimming pools, schools and amusement parks, to carry a non-patient specific prescription to keep epinephrine, which can be administered via an injector known as an Epi-Pen.

Times Reporter: Column from Rep. Andy Thompson: Celebrating our country this Fourth of July

On this day, the 240th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, people all across the nation engage in traditional celebrations of our nation's independence, with cookouts, fireworks, parades and the like.

The Vindicator: New law allows Ohioans to drink higher-alcohol content beer

Here are 10 more of 60 law changes OK'd before lawmakers left Columbus for their summer recess, with most set to take effect in August or September.

Dispatch: Hit-and-run law wrecks create challenges for investigators who piece cases together

State Rep. Brian Hill, a Zanesville Republican, and Ohio Sen. John Eklund, a Republican from Geauga County, pushed for the changes. Fleeing the scene of a crash that causes serious injury or death is now a second-degree felony, which could carry as much as an 8-year sentence.

Heartland News: Ohio Lawmakers Approve Civil Asset Forfeiture Reforms

State Rep. Robert McColley (R-Napoleon) says the current system violates Ohioans' property and due process rights.

Journal-News: Hamilton natural gas customers dodge 10 percent rate hike

Gov. John Kasich signed a bill Tuesday that will spare Hamilton's natural-gas customers a 10-percent rate increase. "He signed it around 4:30 yesterday afternoon," state Rep.

Wes Rutherford, R-Hamilton, said Wednesday. Rutherford and Rep. Tim Schaffer, R-Lancaster, who both live in cities with municipal gas utilities, sponsored the legislation.

Akron Beacon Journal: Kasich signs expanded movie-production credit for Ohio

"We are grateful to Governor Kasich, the Ohio House, and the Ohio Senate for giving us this opportunity to continue to grow a thriving and adaptive media industry in Northeast Ohio. I'd also like to thank Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, Rep. Kirk Schuring, and Sen. Tom Patton, who have championed this legislation, and know just how much a sustainable media industry can benefit Ohio."

Record-Herald: CACFC celebrates 'National Homeownership Month'

Community Action Commission of Fayette County (CACFC) celebrated National Homeownership Month on June 24 by hosting an open house at the newly constructed home of Damian (Scott) and Ashley Forsha and their children. Also present were Marty Heide, representing Congressman Michael Turner, and State Rep. Gary Scherer was also in attendance.

Times Reporter: Leaders from three counties, Ohio are inching closer to making progress on Route 30

Last year, state Rep. Kirk Schuring, R-Jackson Township, was influential in getting legislation passed that created a Regional Transportation Improvement Project. Now three counties — Stark, Carroll and Columbiana — have signed a cooperative agreement with a county commissioner from each to form the co-op.

Daily Sentinel: Field of Hope breaks new ground

State and federal officials appeared from the offices of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, state Rep. Ryan Smith, Congressman Bill Johnson, Sen. Rob Portman, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Gallipolis Municipal Court.

The Blade: Accessible-for-all playground a first in northwest Ohio

The renovation of Lakeview Park makes it northwest Ohio's first fully accessible playground. Also present were state Rep. Steven Arndt (R., Port Clinton) and Port Clinton Mayor Hugh Wheeler, Jr. An aide to U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) presented two flags that had flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of the park's reopening.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 6:14 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Report, Tuesday, July 5, 2016
Attachments: Jul5.htm; Jul5Senate.htm; 160705dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Supreme Court To Hear Second Traffic Camera Case; City Of Springfield Argues Home Rule Hangs In The Balance

After NEOCH Decision, Seitz Suggests Lawmakers Implement Photo ID Requirements For Voting

Legislation Aligns Health Assessments For Hospitals, Public Health Districts In Effort To Improve Population Health Planning

Ohio's Competitive Marketplace Driving Lower-Than-Average Policy Rates, Insurance Leaders Say

Clinton To Open Ohio Campaign Offices, Leads Trump In Latest Fundraising Numbers

Politics Notebook: FBI Recommends No Charge Over Clinton Emails; ODP Blasts Latest Right-To Work Attempt; Advocates Press Kasich For Action On Hunger...

Activity Reports

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

Copyright, 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.



Volume #85, Report #128 -- Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Supreme Court To Hear Second Traffic Camera Case; City Of Springfield Argues Home Rule Hangs In The Balance

The state's high court has agreed to take up a second challenge to a law that has all but eliminated the use of traffic cameras by municipalities.

The Ohio Supreme Court will hear arguments from the city of Springfield that a measure (SB342, 130th General Assembly) that requires a police officer to be present where traffic cameras are operating violates home rule and is not a general law.

In its memorandum in support of jurisdiction, the city called the law "a thinly veiled attempt to destroy local traffic-camera programs."

The city, which established its traffic camera program in 2005 at 10 intersections with high crash rates, sued over the law in Clark County Common Pleas Court but lost. It then took its case to the Second District Court of Appeals, where it again was unsuccessful.

The city now argues that if the appellate court decision is upheld, it could cripple the concept of home rule throughout the state.

"The Second District's decision erroneously reduces municipal authority and would return cities and villages to the position they were in before the people of the state of Ohio changed their constitution in 1912," the city wrote.

The city also makes the case that a "state statute with the principal purpose and effect of limiting municipal authority is not a general law to which municipal ordinances must yield."

"The Legislative Service Commission told the General Assembly that a single section of the bill, the section requiring a police officer to be present at the camera site, would cost municipalities \$73 million. The police officer sitting at the intersection has no role in the photo-enforcement process," the city wrote. "Inexplicably, SB342 requires that the officer sitting idly at a camera site must be a full-time officer. These provisions serve only one purpose - to burden photo-enforcement programs with excessive costs so that cities and villages will abandon them."

The court declined to take up a third proposition of law on whether a municipality has standing to seek a declaratory judgment declaring a state statute to be an unconstitutional incursion of its power of local self-government even where the statute does not conflict with a municipal ordinance.

In an amicus brief filed with the court in support of jurisdiction, the Ohio Municipal League and the city of Dayton, which is engaged in its own litigation over the law, also make the case that the concept of home rule is at stake. The city of Toledo has also filed an amicus brief in support of jurisdiction in the case.

"This matter extends well beyond a municipality's ability to adopt and enforce automatic traffic enforcement programs," the Dayton and OML filing states. "If the Second District's decision stands, it would give the General Assembly authority to legislatively eliminate constitutionally-provided home rule powers, specifically, those powers that are purely local."

The state, however, in its memorandum in response to jurisdiction called the lawsuit "a companion to the attack on the state's comprehensive regulation of traffic cameras."

"Like Dayton, its arguments rest on exaggerated conceptions of its home rule authority and distorted views of S.B. 342," the attorney general's office writes.

The state also deemed both lawsuits to be "quixotic attempts to redefine the court's teachings on police power regulations and standing."

After NEOCH Decision, Seitz Suggests Lawmakers Implement Photo ID Requirements For Voting

Following a federal judge's decision that struck down three provisions contained in election-related legislation that he says placed undue burdens on certain voters, one GOP lawmaker said it may be time to go with a "more rigorous" identification requirement blessed by the nation's high court.

One of the provision struck down required voters accurately complete all five fields on the provisional ballot affirmation and absentee identification envelope before their ballots could be counted, which Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview were for identification purposes.

Since that has been deemed unconstitutional, Sen. Seitz said lawmakers may have no choice but to go the voter ID route.

"This constant meddling in our state election laws ultimately means that you have to resort to something the Supreme Court has already blessed," he said. "I suppose you leave us no choice but to go the photo ID route."

Sen. Seitz said the identification measure struck down was designed to prevent voter fraud. He said the federal government refuses to tell the secretary of state's office if a Social Security number corresponds to an illegal alien.

"We have precious little protection against voting by illegal aliens," he said.

But Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) said requiring state-issued IDs to cast ballots will be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

"This is more bluster and bullying of Ohio's voters from Senator Seitz, who has been deeply involved with most of the anti-voter legislation that the courts have thrown out over the last several years," she said. "Photo-only voter ID legislation is wrong for Ohio. It's not necessary, it's discriminatory, and it would cost the state and voters millions of dollars to implement."

U.S. District Court Judge Algenon L. Marbley's ruling, which struck down two other provisions in election-related legislation passed during the previous General Assembly, is being appealed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016)

Along with throwing out the provisional ballot requirements, the judge delivered a harsh critique of voting law trends in Ohio over the last several years, saying "the Republican-controlled General Assembly's frenetic pace of introducing such legislation reflects questionable motives, given the wealth of other problems facing the state which actually needed solutions."

"If the dog whistles in the General Assembly continue to get louder, courts considering future challenges to voting restrictions in Ohio may very well find that intentional discrimination is afoot," he wrote.

Sen. Setiz, however, said he and his colleague do not have any intention to put a moratorium on election-related legislation.

"Please be assured we are not going to be delinquent in doing our duty to the people of Ohio," he said.

He also denied there was a racial motivation behind the legislation, noting that another federal court judge found the provision to be constitutional.

"This is just another example of the double-standard that activist judges who might be better suited to be legislators are following in their zeal to do the will of the Ohio Democratic Party," he said.

Josh Eck, spokesman for Secretary of State Jon Husted, said the appeals process should be allowed to play out.

"Secretary Husted certainly understands Senator Seitz's frustration with the federal court's intrusion into Ohio's elections, which is why he has appealed the ruling," he said. "Once the appeal is decided and the 2016 election is over, we can calmly assess what law changes will be necessary to ensure a balance in our election system where it is both easy to vote and hard to cheat."

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) recently took to the Senate floor to call on his colleagues to pass an updated version of the Voting Rights Act. During his speech, he commented

on Judge Marbley's ruling and railed again voting "laws passed by an ultra-conservative state legislature in Columbus."

"We're the only advanced democracy in the world where there's actually efforts to restrict access to the ballot box," he said.

A voter ID bill has already been introduced this General Assembly. The measure (HB 189), put forth by Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell), has yet to receive a committee hearing.

Legislation Aligns Health Assessments For Hospitals, Public Health Districts In Effort To Improve Population Health Planning

Nonprofit hospitals and local health districts will have to complete health assessments along the same three-year cycles starting next year, according to legislation signed recently by Gov. John Kasich.

The requirement was part of a broader budget update bill (HB 390) the governor signed Tuesday. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 28, 2016)

Aligning the assessment periods is designed to make it easier for hospitals and their local public health officials to work together on setting priorities, according to the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

Hospitals have already been conducting their health assessments in three-year cycles, but local health districts have been doing so on five-year cycles. The change eliminates one of the barriers to cooperation between hospitals and local health districts, said Beth Bickford, executive director of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners.

"The whole idea is to encourage hospitals and local health departments, both of which have requirements in this regard, to try to work more closely together and to get their planning aligned so hopefully they can feed off each other's work and get some synergy in communities to achieve their health outcomes," she said in an interview.

"It is a bit of a daunting task to completely solve the problem, but I think this effort to set the three-year interval is an effort to try to at least align things from a timing perspective," she added.

There are other hurdles that hinder cooperation, she said, including geography. Hospitals and health districts don't always serve the same areas.

John Palmer, a spokesman for the Ohio Hospital Association, said hospitals already work with health districts on community health assessments, but the change will make that cooperation even easier.

"This new provision will strengthen involvement and support collaboration for our members and their partners that will benefit Ohioans and our communities," he said in an email.

One concern for local public health officials is the added cost and effort of producing the assessments every three years as opposed to every five, Ms. Bickford said.

"They're concerned about taxing their community partners with a process that is a time investment," she said. "There's a fair amount of concern about the extra time, money and asking others to commit their time as well to have it done more frequently."

The assessments look at a number of health factors affecting their communities, including rates of smoking, chronic conditions, risk factors and infectious diseases, Ms. Bickford said. Getting better information and coordinating efforts more will improve the picture health officials have of their communities' concerns.

"We can do a better job of seeing whether or not we're moving the needle on some of these health indicators," she said.

The change is also part of a broader state goal of aligning health assessments and planning to affect overall population health outcomes, according to a presentation by OHT. That broader goal includes a state health assessment, a draft of which was released last week (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2016), and a state health improvement plan slated for the fall.

Ohio's Competitive Marketplace Driving Lower-Than-Average Policy Rates, Insurance Leaders Say

Ohio's insurance marketplace is among the largest in the country and a plethora of companies call the state home - both factors that play a part in residents paying lower-than-average rates for casualty and property policies, according to the Department of Insurance.

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who also serves as director of ODI, pointed to a recently released 2015 market share report of state-licensed property and casualty groups as proof that Ohio's policies continue to drive low insurance rates and make the state a preferable place to do business

"We are focused on protecting consumers and fostering a competitive marketplace that is efficiently regulated," she said in a statement. "Positive results are being realized on multiple fronts."

There are nearly 1,000 property and casualty companies in the state's marketplace and about 140 of those are headquartered in Ohio, she said in an ODI release. State Farm, which is headquartered in Indiana, has the largest market share, holding 12.6% of all policies.

Meanwhile, Columbus-based Nationwide and Illinois-based Allstate are tied for second place at 6.7% and Progressive, which is headquartered in Mayfield, had the fourth largest market share, the report shows.

Dean Fadel, vice president of government relations for the Ohio Insurance Institute, said the market share report findings are "another demonstration of the competitive nature of the environment" that has been fostered in the state.

"We have the third most companies in the nation vying for Ohio consumers which is translated to us getting below national average rates on homeowners and auto insurance," he said in an interview. "I think when you factor in the urbanization and the traffic in Ohio, we arguably have the lowest rates in the nation."

"It's a marketplace where companies are allowed to compete, they're allowed to use within the regulatory schemes the most modernized ways of providing the product and we don't have a lot of insolvencies," Mr. Fadel added.

Ohio's average auto and homeowners premiums are \$515 below the national averages, according to a 2013 National Association of Insurance Commissioners analysis. Residents paid an average of \$763 for homeowners insurance and \$659 for auto insurance.

Employment opportunities have also been positively impacted by the state's thriving insurance industry, Ms. Taylor said.

Since 2011, she has led the charge to fill a projected 26,000 new insurance jobs by 2020 through an administration initiative called Insuring Ohio Futures. The effort includes partnerships between higher education institutions and industry leaders to create education and career pathways.

As a result, ODI reported that nine Ohio colleges and universities now offer insurance and risk management programs including bachelor, associate degrees short-term certification programs.

"We have been able to transform the landscape in just a few short years," Ms. Taylor said. "Educational programs exist that are ready to help Ohioans of all ages prepare for and claim good paying insurance jobs."

There are currently about 100,000 Ohioans working in the industry, earning the state the designation of having the seventh highest number of insurance employees in the country, according to an OII analysis. About one-third of those careers are in the property/casualty insurance field that the institute represents.

In total, more than 230 insurance companies in all segments of the industry call Ohio home, the institute reported.

Clinton To Open Ohio Campaign Offices, Leads Trump In Latest Fundraising Numbers

Hillary Clinton out fundraised opponent Donald Trump in the Buckeye State nearly eight-to-one for the month of May - even after the GOP field narrowed and the billionaire solidified himself as the last Republican standing.

Building on that momentum, Ms. Clinton's campaign announced Friday the campaign took in another \$40 million during June and said Tuesday that it will open 11 new offices across the state of Ohio in the coming week.

Those include offices in Cleveland, Toledo and Woodland, with phone banks to be established in Boardman, Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Hilliard and Trotwood. The campaign will also host a fundraiser in Lebanon and an organizing event in Delaware this week.

Mr. Trump's campaign, however, has been fairly quiet in Ohio, other than the recent hire of state campaign manager Bob Paduchik. The candidate visited the state for the first time post-primary last week. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

Gov. John Kasich withdrew from the race May 4, clearing the way for Mr. Trump to focus on fundraising and other general election prep rather than seizing delegates. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But the latest Federal Election Commission filings from each campaign show that Ms. Clinton, who for much of May was battling Sen. Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination, raised \$153,447.22 from Ohioans between May 1-31. During that same time period Mr. Trump raised \$18,722.89 in the state.

Released last week, the numbers already showed that Mr. Trump and Ms. Clinton trailed their primary opponents in fundraising from Ohio donors. Sen. Sanders for example raised \$158,768 in Ohio while Sen. Ted Cruz led the Republican side despite his May 3 withdrawal. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 21, 2016)

As both campaigns shift toward the general election, however, the numbers highlight the breadth of Ms. Clinton's fundraising infrastructure compared to that of Mr. Trump's. The candidates entered June - their first full month as the presumptive nominees of their respective parties - with \$42.46 million in cash on hand for the Clinton campaign and nearly \$1.29 million in cash on hand for the Trump campaign.

Of the 57 states or territories in which both candidates received donations in May, Ms. Clinton raised more money by far in all of those areas. Her filing shows the former secretary of state raised nearly \$15.04 million from 64 territories or states, while Mr. Trump raised \$1.01 million from 56 states or territories along with a \$250 donation from a foreign country.

Ms. Clinton even outperformed Mr. Trump in right-leaning states - such as Texas, in which Ms. Clinton hauled in \$1.4 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$122,251. In their home state of New York, where Ms. Clinton was a U.S. Senator, that trend continued with Ms. Clinton earning nearly \$1.87 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$52,697.

In Ohio, Mr. Trump received donations from 25 counties in May - the largest of which were \$5,150 from Franklin County and \$2,700 each from supporters in Lorain and Miami counties. By comparison, Ms. Clinton earned donors in 76 Ohio counties, with the largest donations coming from urban areas - including \$35,818 from Cuyahoga County, \$29,038 from Hamilton County, and \$27,499 from Franklin County.

In response, the Trump campaign launched a fundraising blitz last week leading up to the second quarter FEC filing deadline of June 30th.

The campaign set a goal of raising \$10 million by the deadline, with the candidate's son, Eric Trump, telling supporters via email, "The truth is we did better than \$11 million and no amount of spin from Crooked Hillary's machine can change that fact."

The Clinton campaign, meanwhile, claims to have raised more than \$40 million during the month of June, with an additional \$28 million raised for the Democratic National Committee and state parties.

"Our first month of general election fundraising proved to be the best of the campaign," Campaign Manager Robby Mook said in a statement. "Thanks to the continued support of nearly 1.6 million people, we have been able to help Democrats build out an organizing infrastructure across the country that will mobilize millions of voters and help elect progressive candidates up and down the ballot."

The campaigns' second quarter filings, due July 15, will further show whether that funding gap persists.

Part of the contrast so far is thanks to Mr. Trump's limited fundraising efforts during the primary season. Although the campaign has accepted donations since it launched last year, it has mostly subsisted on loans from Mr. Trump to the campaign. The June filing shows the campaign has received \$45.7 million in loans from or guaranteed by the candidate during the election cycle.

Gov. Kasich, meanwhile, continues to try to aid down-ballot Republicans, including ally U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

A Tuesday email from Kasich's suspended campaign - the second such missive in as many weeks from Kasich for America - highlighted several recent media reports showcasing "Kasich's efforts to help our party maintain the majority in the U.S. Senate and also about Gov. Kasich's ongoing popularity in national polls."

Politics Notebook: FBI Recommends No Charge Over Clinton Emails; ODP Blasts Latest Right-To Work Attempt; Advocates Press Kasich For Action On Hunger...

FBI Director James Comey said Tuesday he is recommending Hillary Clinton not be charged for her handling of classified information via a personal email server while serving as secretary of state.

Still, he strongly chastised the Democratic presumptive nominee and her staff for being "extremely careless" in her handling of sensitive information.

"Although we did not find clear evidence that Secretary Clinton or her colleagues intended to violate laws governing the handling of classified information, there is evidence that they were extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information."

Of the 30,000 emails provided by Ms. Clinton and the State Department in December 2014, the FBI determined 100 emails in 52 email chains contained classified information at the time they were sent or received. Eight of those contained information that was "Top Secret" when sent, 36 contained information that was marked "Secret," and eight contained "Confidential" information.

Director Comey said there were several examples of email communication regarding Top Secret/Special Access Program level information and that it is reasonable for a person in Ms. Clinton's position or her staff to "have known than an unclassified system was no place for that conversation."

Mr. Comey said his recommendation to the Department of Justice, which has the final determination on the matter, was based on a lack of willful intent to violate statute and was reached in "an entirely apolitical and professional way."

"In looking back at our investigations into mishandling or removal of classified information, we cannot find a case that would support bringing criminal charges on these facts," he said. "All the cases prosecuted involved some combination of: clearly intentional and willful mishandling of classified information; or vast quantities of materials exposed in such a way as to support an inference of intentional misconduct; or indications of disloyalty to the United States; or efforts to obstruct justice. We do not see those things here."

A Clinton spokesman said, "We are glad that this matter is now resolved," adding that Ms. Clinton has "long said it was a mistake to use her personal email and she would not do it again."

Republicans at all levels were quick to criticize the FBI's recommendation, with Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges calling the findings "a clear indictment on Hillary Clinton's lack of preparedness and judgment to be commander-in-chief."

"This wouldn't have been an issue had Hillary Clinton followed the law like everybody else and used a State Department account," Mr. Borges said. "Instead, Hillary Clinton set up an email system less secure than Gmail for herself to evade the rules because she didn't want people to know what she was doing."

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton likewise criticized the FBI.

"Frankly, there's a disconnect between Comey's devastating findings and his weak recommendation not to prosecute Hillary Clinton," Mr. Fitton said. "Federal prosecutors, independent of politics, need to consider whether to pursue the potential violations of law confirmed by the FBI."

Right to Work: Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) on Friday introduced a bill to make Ohio a right-to-work state, triggering an immediate reaction from state Democrats.

Critics compared the measure (HB 583) to a previous bill that passed in 2011 only to be overwhelmingly overturned by voters (SB5, 129th General Assembly). Since then, Gov. John Kasich has repeatedly said right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda.

The latest bill would remove any requirement under collective bargaining law that public employees must join or pay dues to any employee organization.

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said a decision about where the bill is headed has yet to be made.

"Since the bill was just introduced last week, the Speaker has not yet had a chance to fully review the legislation. When committee and House session resume in the fall, the caucus will discuss the bill further," she said.

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

"Ohio Democrats strongly oppose this ideological attack on Ohio's working families, which will drive down wages, benefits and overall living standards for all Ohio worker," Mr. Pepper said. "It's time for real leadership in Ohio, and it's time for Gov. John Kasich to state unequivocally that he will veto any 'right to work' bill that is sent to his desk."

Hunger: Advocates are continuing to lobby Gov. John Kasich to request full federal food assistance for eligible counties and communities.

The call follows a recent Policy Matters Ohio report that examines communities eligible for a federal waiver of time limits in 2017. The deadline for the waiver request is this summer.

But the state has not submitted such requests in the last three years, prompting Policy Matters and others to urge Gov. Kasich to action.

"The failure to request a waiver of time limits in all eligible areas has hurt people in urban areas like Cleveland, but also in rural places, like Vinton County," PMO Senior Project Director Wendy Patton said. "We again call on the Kasich administration to maximize its use of federal resources so that hungry Ohioans can meet their most basic need - food."

Joining in the call were the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, the Ohio Poverty Law Center, and the Ohio Council of Churches.

U.S. Senate Race: The campaign of U.S. Sen. Rob Portman launched a \$1 million statewide TV ad campaign aimed at highlighting the Terrace Park Republican's record of "standing up to China and fighting for Ohio Workers."

China and trade have been a sticking point between the incumbent and Democratic challenger and former Gov. Ted Strickland, with both throwing continued barbs at their rival's record on the topic.

The latest ad, called "Steel," focuses on Burke Byer of Cincinnati's Byer Steel as he describes an unfair playing field between American and Chinese workers.

"Our new ad highlights Rob's long record of fighting for Ohio manufacturers and workers like those at Cincinnati's Byer Steel," Portman spokeswoman Michawn Rich said. "Rob is the only candidate in this race with a record of standing up to China. Rob is leading the fight to stop China's currency manipulation and level the playing field on trade so Ohio workers can compete and win."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Supplemental Event Planner

No events scheduled.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the # after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Senate Activity for Tuesday, July 5, 2016

INTRODUCED

SCR 22 ■ FIREARMS (Yuko, K.) To urge Congress to enact legislation denying firearms and explosives to suspected terrorists.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the ■ after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, July 6

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Historic Parlor and Conservatory, 348 Mentor Avenue, Painesville, 5 p.m., (Event Host: \$1000; Couple: \$150, Individual: \$100 to Friends of John Eklund)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 5:46 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, July 15, 2016
Attachments: Jul15.htm; 160715dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In = 2Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Attorney General's Opinion

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Calendars

Day Planner

Event Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

Copyright, 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.



Volume #85, Report #136 -- Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

A Senate leader said lawmakers may not act on the soon-to-end freeze on renewable energy and energy efficiency standards until sometime next year.

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina), the Senate's president pro tem and likely next chamber leader, said in an interview this week he advocates for an "all the above approach" to rethinking the mandates that were frozen in 2014 and are set to kick back in at the end of this year without legislative action.

But such an undertaking might not be easier considering the limited number of session days scheduled this fall, he said. The Senate is scheduled to return in late September with at most 21 days set for work in committees, and much fewer days anticipated for full sessions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2016) The House, meanwhile, is set to reconvene after the November election with at most eight full session days.

"I think that's a pretty big issue and if there's not that many session days it remains to be seen whether that'll be tackled in that amount of time," Sen. Obhof said. "I definitely think moving forward whether it's at the end of this year or at the beginning of the next General Assembly we need to come up with a comprehensive and consistent policy on energy."

By not acting by Dec. 31, the freeze would thaw, allowing the standards to kick back into effect, which Republicans argue could harm Ohio considering lingering uncertainty over the federal Clean Power Plan and other unknowns. Proponents of the standards say any effort to extend the freeze or lower the standards would take the state backward.

There are currently three bills pending in either chamber with different approaches. A bill from Sen. Bill Seitz (SB 320) would extend the freeze until 2019, while a bill from Rep. Ron Amstutz (HB 554) would extend the freeze indefinitely. A third bill (SB 325), from Sen. Kris Jordan, would abolish the mandates completely. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 11, 2016)

If none of those bills pass by the end of the 131st General Assembly, the legislative slate will be wiped clean and a new bill would need to be authored to tackle the issue next year.

Sen. Obhof said that even if lawmakers act on the freeze, he believes more comprehensive action would be needed in the next General Assembly.

"I think there will be some kind of action in the next 12 to 18 months regardless of whether the freeze is extended or not," Sen. Obhof said. "I don't know if there is any

science supporting the current numbers and mandates in law. I think we need to have a fact-based approach, one that has room for all the natural resources available."

The pending end of the freeze is one of the reasons cited by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) as a reason for more Republican scrutiny of Gov. John Kasich's recent appointee to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Democratic attorney Howard Petricoff on Tuesday faced his first hearing before the Sen. Seitz's Senate Public Utilities Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 12, 2016)

"I believe we're at a unique crossroads caused by a fairly simultaneous convergence of numerous complex issues," Sen. Seitz said. "I think we all need to make an effort to understand each other on these issues and of course no one is more central to that vortex than the five members of the PUCO."

Other uncertainties he cited include ongoing rehearings of proposed Power Purchase Agreements from AEP and FirstEnergy, the departure of former PUCO Chairman Andre Porter, and the ongoing federal court case over the legality of the Clean Power Plan.

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

In one of the first significant rhetorical volleys in this legislative campaign cycle, the rising controversy over funding and student attendance at the state's largest online charter school is a point of contention in the race for the open 16th Senate District.

Democrat Cathy Johnson, a teacher looking to upset favored Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) in the right-leaning western Franklin County seat, fired the initial salvo this week in criticizing the Republican over issues related to the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

Her criticisms were dismissed by Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee, who described the Democrat's statements as "misguided to say the least" and defended the Republican's positions on and support for education.

The race for the seat being vacated by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) is one of only a handful in the Senate this year that's expected to be even marginally competitive thanks to the GOP-led reapportionment process. It has trended Republican for several years, but Democrats are hoping that with a polarizing candidate atop the GOP ticket they can make hay in legislative races this fall.

ECOT is currently locked in a legal battle with the Ohio Department of Education over attendance records, with a looming audit having the potential to strip millions of funding from the online charter founded by Bill Lager. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 11, 2016)

Ms. Johnson in a campaign release "announced her support" for ODE's attempts to examine ECOT's records and said Rep. Kunze voted "against measures to hold e-

schools accountable in 2015" and "has accepted \$33,000 from ECOT's founder, Bill Lager, over the past four years."

"As a mother, teacher and taxpayer, I am astonished by the deceptive tactics of this taxpayer-funded e-school," Ms. Johnson said. "It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance."

The Democrat said Ms. Kunze "voted with Republicans to block amendments that would have required annual audits for charter school operators, clarified that records of all charter school operators are public records and given the public more access to information on charter school board members and meeting times."

"It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance," Ms. Johnson added. "Instead, she chose to accept donations from ECOT's founder. We need a State Senator who is dedicated to fighting for students and families. Anyone can say yes to special interests with deep pockets."

Sen. Burke questioned the focus of Ms. Johnson's assertions, saying Rep. Kunze has a record that belies such criticisms.

"Stephanie Kunze has a record of supporting both public education and parent choice," he said. "I would also say that both traditional public education and charter schools and ECOT schools, etc. are all in need of improvement beyond a shadow of a doubt and that is what we're working on."

To that end, Sen. Burke said, Ms. Kunze was a cosponsor of HB 2, which he described as "the largest reform bill dealing with non-traditional public schools." As the legislature continues to look for improvements to all kinds of public schools, he added, "she is obviously supportive of that."

"I would say, unlike Ms. Johnson's statement, that rather than have a singular source of education, that Stephanie believes parents should have a choice. The competition within that market drives improvement, so in order for public schools to get better, parents should have a choice."

The Republican said some of the tabled budget amendments the Democrat is apparently referring to "would have basically eliminated parent choice."

Sen. Burke also pushed back on the suggestion of a quid pro quo involving campaign donations.

"I imagine Stephanie Kunze, like me, accepts money from a lot of people," he said. "I've taken money from Bill Lager. I also was a direct cosponsor of (Sen. Peggy Lehner's) bill to reform ECOT and charter schools from day one."

"I guess the inverse question there would be, 'If the (Ohio Education Association) paid money to Stephanie Kunze, do you think she'd change?' I'm guessing probably not."

The debate over ECOT escalated considerably in recent weeks as ODE moved forward with plans to review the schools attendance records. In the latest twist, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported Thursday that ECOT is refusing to release some of the requested data.

As election season progresses, Democrats have increasingly pointed to the majority GOP's ties to ECOT, which has been at the forefront of the Republican-led expansion of the charter industry in the state.

Carrying forward the support of his predecessor, Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) spoke at this year's ECOT graduation ceremony, which in the past has been attended by other prominent Republican officeholders.

The Ohio Democratic Party recently called for a moratorium on state funding to ECOT and a larger investigation into the state's charter school system, stating: "Last year as the Ohio General Assembly considered a bill to reform charter schools, Lager gave nearly \$150,000 to 21 Ohio Republican legislators over the course of two months."

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Donald Trump on Friday became the first presumptive nominee to announce his vice presidential pick via Twitter.

As expected, Mr. Trump confirmed he has tabbed Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate in a tweet shortly before 11 a.m.

Mr. Trump had previously announced he was postponing the New York City press conference where he was expected to make the announcement following a mass killing in Nice, France.

But Gov. Pence faced a noon deadline Friday by which to withdraw from his gubernatorial reelection bid in order for the Indiana Republican Party to name a replacement candidate, meaning the news would have been confirmed then even without an announcement from the Trump campaign.

The formal news conference will now take place at 11 a.m. Saturday in New Jersey.

Word broke Thursday that the first term Indiana governor and former congressman was to be Mr. Trump's No. 2.

Gov. Pence has been engaged in a gubernatorial rematch with Democrat John Gregg - a race that's taken on a new element of competitiveness following Republican discontent over Mr. Pence's handling of last year's so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Mr. Pence, well thought of in religious conservative circles, is seen as an attempt by Mr. Trump to appeal to that voter bloc and to create inroads with Congress, where Gov. Pence served from 2001-2013.

The campaign of DNC presumptive nominee Hillary Clinton immediately blasted the pick in a statement, calling it the "most extreme VP pick in a generation."

Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta criticized the governor for defunding Planned Parenthood, advocating early on for the Tea Party movement, and signing a religious freedom law that opponents say legalized discrimination against LGBT citizens.

"By picking Mike Pence as his running mate, Donald Trump has doubled down on some of his most disturbing beliefs by choosing an incredibly divisive and unpopular running mate known for supporting discriminatory politics and failed economic policies that favor millionaires and corporations over working families," Mr. Podesta said.

The campaign then promptly organized a media call featuring allied groups criticizing the Republican ticket.

Rules Committee: GOP leaders and Trump loyalists thwarted plans to undermine Mr. Trump's candidacy during a closely watched RNC Rules Committee meeting Thursday.

The morning meeting was delayed several hours while party leaders attempted to negotiate with members of the "Never Trump" movement, but talks soon fell apart. Those members had hoped to change rules to permit delegates to vote their conscience, thereby freeing bound delegates to vote against Mr. Trump on the first ballot.

But as the day wore on it became clear the anti-Trump contingent had too little support for success and lacked the required votes to create a minority report that would have ensured debate on the issue before the full convention next week. Amendment author Kendal Unruh said she would still attempt to earn the required 28 signatures for a minority report.

Following much debate, delegates also shot down a proposed amendment that would have barred lobbyists from being members of the RNC - a change Ohio delegate and lobbyist JoAnn Davidson strongly criticized in remarks before the body.

The committee, which had planned to meet Friday, eventually finished the agenda late Thursday and adjourned. The rules package will be sent to the full convention Monday for consideration.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said the meeting "made clear the high level of unity within our Party."

"Grassroots voices from every state and territory have crafted a set of rules which will keep our party strong at the local, state, and national level, and we honored the spirit of democracy by conducting our Rules Committee meeting in a completely open and transparent fashion," he said.

Schedule: The RNC had not yet released an official schedule of events for convention week in Cleveland as of midday Friday, just two days before the RNC is scheduled to kickoff.

But Ohio leaders and others have already announced a slew of ancillary events timed to capitalize on the convention crowd.

The Ohio Republican Party will host daily 8 a.m. breakfasts featuring Treasurer Josh Mandel and U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton (Monday); U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson and Frank Luntz (Tuesday); U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi and House Speaker Paul Ryan (Wednesday); and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (Thursday).

The ORP already announced a 3:30 p.m. Tuesday event at the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame to honor Gov. John Kasich.

A sampling of other events during the course of the week includes:

- Sunday - a "Taste of Little Italy" event featuring Attorney General Mike DeWine at 3 p.m. at Tony Brush Park
- Monday - a 3 p.m. campaign event in which Sen. Rob Portman, former Speaker Newt Gingrich and Sen. Joni Ernst will address Sen. Portman volunteers at the Tri-C Metropolitan Campus
- Tuesday, a 10:15 a.m. reception for media members with Sen. Rob Portman; and 11 a.m. welcome tea hosted by the Ohio Federation of Republican Women at the Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square featuring U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)

A partial list of convention speakers was officially released Thursday, although the time and dates of the speeches have yet to be announced by the RNC.

In contrast, the Democratic National Convention Committee announced Friday the headline speakers for the DNC in Philadelphia later this month. They include First Lady Michelle Obama and Sen. Bernie Sanders July 25, President Bill Clinton July 26, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden July 27, and Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton July 28.

A series of musical acts will perform each day of the RNC at Freedom Plaza, which will also include drinks and food. For a complete list, visit the RNC's website. An evening

concert, featuring a variety of "American Idol" and "The Voice" winners will take place at 11 p.m. Tuesday at Gray's Armory.

The Clinton campaign and the DNC, meanwhile, are organizing their own counter events in Cleveland with a slew of press conferences and conference calls aimed at undercutting the RNC. Former Gov. Ted Strickland and the Ohio Democratic Party will also ramp up their attacks on U.S. Sen. Rob Portman as they seek to link him to Mr. Trump.

Other groups have scheduled their own events to criticize Republicans. The Ohio AFL-CIO is set to "welcome" Republicans to the city during a 2 p.m. Sunday event featuring former Gov. Ted Strickland at the Laborers' Local 310 Hall.

ProgressOhio has created a calendar of counter events that includes a "Daily Show" convention sideshow, League of Women Voters voter registration drives, and daily nonviolence training for protestors.

Bob Bennett: The City of Cleveland granted a secondary street name to the intersection of Ontario Street and Huron Road for the duration of the convention. The intersection will be known as Bob Bennett Way in honor of former ORP chairman.

"More than any one person, Bob Bennett steadfastly sought to bring the Convention to Cleveland," Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges said. "We are sad that he is not here to see the world spotlight on Cleveland, but grateful to the Mayor's office for honoring him in this way so that we can acknowledge his contribution to this week."

Tourism: With the RNC expected to draw 50,000 people to Cleveland, TourismOhio is rolling out all the stops to showcase Ohio, according to a press release.

The group is launching a 360 degree "virtual reality experience" during the convention, to capitalize on visitors and showcase various Ohio hotspots.

The experience will be hosted in a 40-passenger bus located outside the Quicken Loans Arena, according to the release, and will "offer a personal Ohio adventure for participants with a wide range of interests." Those not at the event can take part online.

Some of the featured items include Cedar Point, Hocking Hills, parasailing over Lake Erie, and various Cleveland attractions.

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Students largely believe that their colleges and universities would seriously address sexual assault reports and take corrective action against offenders, according to their responses on surveys disseminated by all of the state's public institutions.

The surveys were an integral piece of the Changing Campus Culture initiative, which the Department of Higher Education launched last fall in an effort to encourage best practices in preventing and responding to sexual violence on campuses. (Survey Results)

Chancellor John Carey urged schools to join the voluntary effort and they responded. All of Ohio's public universities and 80% of private institutions participated in the campus climate survey that asked students to give feedback on how they think sexual assault is being handled and whether they know how to file reports.

Michelle Johnston, the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College president who has been the face of the initiative, said she's encouraged by the swell of interest in improving sexual violence policies.

The feedback, she said, will be used to steer the other facets of the \$2-million initiative, which include developing comprehensive response policies, adopting survivor-centered responses, launching awareness campaigns and implementing comprehensive training programs.

"With 100% of our public colleges and universities completing a common survey of our students, we have a clearer picture of where we are, collectively and as unique institutions," she said in a statement. "Using this data, we will thoroughly analyze where we are now and will chart a course for where we want to be, in relation to positive and safe environments on our campuses."

Students who responded to the survey agreed, on average, that the university would take sexual assault reports seriously and would support those making the reports. The average respondent also said the university would take corrective action against offenders and would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.

However, students largely disagreed or were neutral with a survey statement that sexual violence is not a problem on their campuses and responses were mixed on a question of understanding institution policies for addressing complaints.

Less than one-third of students reported they don't know the contact information to get on-campus support for sexual violence despite about 13% of them saying they knew women who had been assaulted on campus.

"As I have shared many times before, numbers don't lie, and in the case of sexual violence on our campuses in Ohio, the numbers tell a story that needs a better ending," Ms. Johnston said of why the initiative was launched in October.

In addition to the aggregate data compiled by ODHE, the agency said campuses also administered more comprehensive surveys that will inform policies specific to individual institutions. All public institutions and 88% of private colleges and universities completed those surveys.

Ohio is one of few states in the country that has collected such data, according to ODHE. Much of the work to complete the surveys was done with the help of grants that were funded with a portion of the \$2 million allocated to the initiative in the biennium budget (HB 64).

The grants are also to be used to support putting best practices in place. The overall budget funding has paid for, among other things, webinars and summits to keep institutions engaged in the initiative and collaborating with one another.

"It's exciting to see Ohio dedicating state resources to collect prevalence data, support survivors and prevent sexual violence on college campuses, and partnering with the coalition and rape crisis centers," said Monika Johnson Hostler, the president of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

"It is through this strategic, long-term investment and the development of partnerships between campuses and community-based programs that we will see long-term positive change for students."

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

The sponsor of public sector right-to-work legislation defends introducing the controversial measure while acknowledging it is likely dead-on-arrival.

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) said legislation (HB 583) that would remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization is good policy that will likely not be well-received in the General Assembly.

"It's something my constituents have been demanding for a long time," he said in an interview. "I think it's good for Ohio and hopefully it will be able to move forward."

But We Are Ohio, which was formed in opposition to similar legislation designed to curtail the collective bargaining power of public sector unions, slammed the proposal, saying that workers in state with similar laws make less money and are more prone to on-the-job injuries.

"We believe right-to-work is wrong for Ohio, for working people, for all of us," spokesman Dennis Willard said in an interview.

"There is no support from working people in this state for this extreme idea."

Asked about the likelihood of the bill becoming law, Rep. Becker said he has "no reason to be optimistic."

"I have no feedback one way or the other, but based on the public comments that the governor has made and based on my feelings of what's going on in the Senate or where they might be, I'm not optimistic," he said.

Gov. John Kasich has said repeatedly that right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda in the wake of the public rebuke over similar legislation (SB5, 129th General Assembly) that was struck down by the state's voters in a labor-backed referendum.

John Fourtney, spokesman for the Senate Majority Caucus, said the measure has yet to be vetted by members. However, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has spoken favorably of eliminating a requirement for union shop employees to pay union dues (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 4, 2013), but has said the support is not there among his members. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 3, 2013)

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), also said the bill will be discussed further among caucus members in the fall.

The fight over Senate Bill 5 galvanized the labor movement, and Rep. Becker acknowledged that the introduction of similar legislation could provide good political fodder for Democrats in an election year.

"I could see that being a drawback. It just gives the Democrats another talking point and a fundraising letter to send out," he said.

However, he said his measure is different from Senate Bill 5 in that it does not address collective bargaining benefits.

"It is simply an opt-out for public sector employees," he said.

Democrats and labor groups have derided right-to-work legislation for allowing those who opt out of paying union dues to still receive the benefits from negotiated terms of contracts. But Rep. Becker said those who opt-out under his legislation would no longer be protected by unions.

"If they run into some kind of trouble with management, they will not be able to look to the union," he said, adding that it is up to management to decide how to deal with the wages and benefits of non-union employees.

Critics have also said that right-to-work legislation is designed to weaken unions both financially and politically. Rep. Becker, however, also downplayed that critique.

"I wouldn't expect a mass exodus from unions if this were to be signed into law," he said. "If there were a significant exit, it would tell me that there's a problem with the unions. If the only way they can maintain their union through a captive audience then they need to be looking in the mirror."

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

A spokesman for the state's largest online charter school is defending the school's refusal to hand over student log-in data requested by the Department of Education.

Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow is not breaking any laws by refusing the data that's at the center of a lawsuit alleging ODE will misuse that information to determine per-pupil funding, school spokesman Neil Clark said.

A Franklin County judge earlier this week denied ECOT's request for a temporary restraining order to stop ODE from moving forward with an audit until after the court rules how student attendance should be used to inform payment totals.

ODE on Monday moved forward with the attendance review, but an email from the agency's attorney to ECOT revealed that the school was refusing to turn over the log-in and log-out information for students.

The agency's attorney Douglas Cole requested access to the documents be immediately provided, but Mr. Clark said that won't be happening.

"We're saying we're not doing anything unless the court tells us to," he said in an interview.

ECOT is interpreting the judge's decision differently than ODE, he said. While it may have allowed the audit to move forward, there is no specification that the review can occur in a way that conflicts with a contract between the school and ODE.

The school's lawsuit argues that ODE's decision to not provide funding for students who weren't logging in at least five hours per day is out of line with an agreement that has been in place for previous audits. That contractual agreement states that the school must offer up to 920 hours of learning opportunities - not that students must partake, Mr. Clark said.

"It's just not about did you show up today, it's far more detailed than that; it's how did you get to that 920?" he said.

ODE, meanwhile, is contending that online schools are required by state law to make daily student participation records accessible, regardless of how that information is being used. Mr. Evans said in his email a statute specifying that mandate has been in place since February.

The e-school's governing board was expected to meet Friday - mostly in executive session - to discuss the lawsuit and next steps.

Accreditation: Antioch College this week announced it has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

The independent college had spent the last two years pursuing accreditation after reopening in 2011. Originally founded in 1850, it closed in 2008 amid financial troubles and leaders have since been focused on building the historic institution back up.

President Tom Manley said in a video posted to YouTube that the university can now focus its attention on continuing to build a financial foundation and recruit students.

"This great result comes from the hard work of our faculty, our staff, students, our alumni who have been so incredibly supportive and the leadership of our board of trustees," he said. "It is a ringing endorsement of the quality and strength of the education that Antioch college can now offer, and it is a vote of confidence in our ability to offer than education for years to come."

The commission's decision is retroactive, meaning the recent graduates in the class of 2016 will receive diplomas from an accredited institution, Antioch reported.

Standards Revisions: Rep. Jack Cera is urging educators and the public to provide feedback on proposed revisions to English and math standards.

The Bellaire Democrat said his constituents have shared frustration with the current common core standards, known as Ohio's Learning Standards, and now is the time to recommend changes.

Through 5 p.m. Aug. 1, ODE is accepting public comments on the proposed revisions that were drafted in response to the work of a task force and an earlier public survey.

"I wanted to take the time to share this opportunity with the people of the 96th District because I have received many questions from teachers, parents and administrators about the education department's new revisions," he said. "This is a perfect opportunity for parents to get involved in the process and voice their questions, comments and concerns with those who create these standards directly."

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In 'Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

The Ohio Democratic Party has thrown its weight behind an effort to ensure that unregistered voters have a small window prior to the presidential election to register and cast a ballot on the same day.

In a brief filed with U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals, the party asks the court to uphold a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act.

"Jon Husted and Mike DeWine continue to waste time and money in court, ignoring the Constitution and clear precedent while attempting to make it harder to vote," Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said in a statement.

"In their appeal, Husted and DeWine blatantly disregard the fact that eliminating an additional week of early voting and same-day registration disproportionately impacted African-American voters. The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

In his ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

In a separate decision, Judge Watson denied a request to stay the ruling for the November presidential election while the decision is appealed.

ODP is now accusing Secretary of State Jon Husted of failing to heed the ruling by not providing accurate information for voters about the start of early voting on his office's website.

"Jon Husted has a long history of blatantly ignoring court decisions that have rebuked his attacks on Ohioans' voting rights, and his refusal, once again, to provide accurate information about early voting is plainly designed to mislead Ohioans about their voting rights," Mr. Pepper said.

"If he won't relent and update the misleading information his office is providing, we will take action to ensure he follows the court order restoring 'Golden Week.' The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

Husted spokesman Josh Eck said the website won't be changed while the case is under appeal.

"The ruling was stayed for the upcoming August Special Election and is currently on appeal ahead of the November election. It would be irresponsible for the Secretary to begin advertising changes that may very well have to undergo further changes before the General Election, as they did in 2012," he said.

"Secretary Husted is committed to making sure all voters know the rules and can participate and we welcome others to join us in pursuing clarity over chaos."

Eminent Domain: The 1851 Center for Constitutional Law has asked the Wood County Common Pleas Court to dismiss more than a dozen eminent domain cases filed by a Texas pipeline company.

The group said in a court filing that Kinder Morgan's eminent domain action against 15 families in the Bowling Green area violates Ohio's constitution because the project for which it is seeking the land is not a "public necessity."

The land would be used for the "Utopia Pipeline," a private ethane pipeline running underground to a Canadian plastics factory.

"Imagine that a private sector lawyer desired to get to the Wood County Court of Common Pleas faster. Could he forcibly appropriate others' private land along the route, from his front door step to the court's parking lot to build a personal road, with no on-ramps or exits, and twenty foot walls on either side, just to represent one very wealthy client who anticipated routinely using his services?" the filing reads.

"If the answer is 'no,' then it must be here as well. And it is 'no,' because no such road would be a public use, even if the lawyer appealed to the public interest in 'justice' and 'market demand for lawyers.'"

Maurice Thompson, the group's executive director, said in a statement the proposed eminent domain action is "redistribution of wealth of the worst sort."

"The abuse along the Utopia Pipeline is a prime example of what can happen when legislators attempt to auction off Ohioans' property rights to the highest bidder," he said. "Ultimately, the Ohio Constitution prevents this abuse, and we will prevail in court. But statutes inviting this sort of behavior should be amended or repealed."

Honor: A long-time employee of the Ohio Judicial College has been nationally recognized for his work, the high court reported.

Kristopher Steele, an education program manager, received the 2016 Perkins Award from the National Association for Court Management

"It's because of employees like Kristopher that the Supreme Court has an outstanding reputation nationally," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in a statement. "I have received multiple compliments about the Judicial College programs and our staff from my colleagues when attending national meetings."

"I am honored to win this award and will accept it on behalf of all the other dedicated personnel working behind the scenes at courts to help improve services to their communities," Mr. Steele said.

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Friday announced that 29 rape crisis centers across the state will receive more than \$1.4 million in grant funding.

"We owe it to survivors of sexual assault to make sure they receive comprehensive support after an attack," AG DeWine said. "These funds will go toward helping agencies across the state to provide quality, compassionate care to those who need it."

The following 28 agencies will all receive \$45,803:

- Abuse and Rape Crisis Center of Warren County
- Alive, Inc., Steubenville
- Appleseed Community Mental Health Center, Ashland
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Stark County
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Tuscarawas County
- Compass Family and Community Services, Youngstown
- Council on Domestic Violence/Open Arms, Findlay
- Crime Victim Services, Lima
- Edna Brooks Foundation/My Sister's Place, Athens
- Erie County Prosecutor
- Eve, Inc., Marietta
- Haven of Hope, Cambridge
- Helpline of Delaware and Morrow Counties
- Highland County Domestic Violence Task Force
- Lake County Prosecutor
- New Directions, Mt. Vernon
- OneEighty, Wayne County

- Project Woman, Springfield
- Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties
- Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio
- The Cocoon, Bowling Green
- The Domestic Violence Shelter, Mansfield
- The Nord Center, Lorain
- Townhall II, Kent
- Tri-County Help Center, St. Clairsville
- Women Helping Women, Cincinnati
- YWCA of Northwest Ohio, Toledo

Another \$142,500 will be distributed to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

BWC: As the Bureau of Workers' Compensation transitions to prospective billing, it is asking private employers to report their actual payroll for the policy year ended June 30 and to reconcile any differences in premium paid prior to the closure of the "True-up" window on Aug. 15.

Employers will be removed from their current rating plan or discount program if it BWC does not receive a payroll true-up by the due date. Outstanding payroll true-ups will render the employer ineligible for participation in future rating plans or discount programs until all outstanding payroll true-ups are complete.

"This step is an important part of BWC's ongoing efforts to modernize operations and provide better service to Ohio's employers," BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison said in a statement. "It's also necessary for BWC to accurately calculate an employer's premium and for employers to maintain their participation in current rating plan or discount programs."

The transition, according to BWC, has allowed it to reduce base rates and offer employers more flexible payment options and the ability to better forecast their costs.

True-ups can be completed online and if done through the web qualifies eligible employers for a 1% premium rebate, up to a \$2,000 maximum.

The payroll true-up may also be completed through the call center at 1-800-644-6292.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced 8,480 new state business filings in June. The figure represents an increase over the same period on 2015, when 8,151 entities were formed.

June was again a record setting month for business filing; 4,300 more entities have filed so far in 2016 than at the same point in 2015.

New filings increased 21.8% from 2010-2015.

Department of Natural Resources: A total of 2,192 permits have been issued for drilling on the Utica Shale as of July 9, according to data from the Division of Oil and Gas Resources.

A total of 1,756 wells have been drilled, and 1,334 wells are in production, according to the ODNR.

The department also announced that Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor attended the opening ceremonies for the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship at the Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo.

PUCO: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is remind consumers that they may be eligible for budget billing.

The program, offered by Ohio's regulated electric and natural gas distribution companies, allows consumers to avoid spikes in billion in the summer and winter months.

General Assembly: Legislative staff and members of the Senate collected more than 33,000 pounds of canned food for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

The internal food drive also generated \$3,000 in donations, which will provide 39,500 meals to local residents.

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

Ohio's senators this week applauded the confirmation of Carole Rendon as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) recommended Ms. Rendon, a former first assistant U.S. attorney, for the post last month.

"No one is more qualified to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District than Carole Rendon," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "Now that she is confirmed she can continue her work on behalf of Ohioans."

Sen. Portman said, "Carole Rendon is a proud Ohioan, an accomplished lawyer, and a dedicated public servant. She has already served Ohio with distinction for seven years, and I'm pleased that she will continue as U.S. Attorney for Northern Ohio. I am grateful to my colleagues for making the right decision and confirming her nomination."

Border: Sen. Brown urged customs and border protection to launch an investigation into produce made using child and forced labor.

Joining with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), he wrote to CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske decrying a loophole that allows some of those products into the country if there is not a sufficient supply.

"We urge you to continue that dialogue with regular meetings between NGOs, as well as other stakeholders, and CBP, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the State Department, and the Department of Labor and a meeting in the very near term to discuss issues related to regulations. Increased communication will lead to more successful petitions and better enforcement against forced labor imports," the senators wrote.

Funding: U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) applauded several instances of new funding awarded to her district this week.

First she welcomed news of a \$700 million retooling of Toledo's Jeep North Assembly Plant.

The project, which will equip the plant for production of the next generation of Jeep Wrangler, was announced this week by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and promises 700 new jobs.

"This is almost beyond belief, given where we were eight short years ago," Rep. Kaptur said. "For seventy-five years Toledans have manufactured Wranglers. FCA's investment today will ensure this legacy remains for years to come."

The Cleveland Hopkins International Airport will also receive \$22.1 million in federal funds for improvements including safety upgrades and new snow removal equipment.

Lastly, Rep. Kaptur announced the award of a \$3.1 million grant to the Lorain Fire Department and the city of Lorain aimed at addressing a staffing crisis.

The funds, from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program, aim to fix the fallout of the recent layoffs of 22 members of the city's fire department.

"This is obviously great news," Rep. Kaptur said. "Credit should go to the Lorain firefighters, who have actively organized in recent weeks and made their case effectively and persuasively, and to Lorain Mayor Chase Ritenauer and Lorain Fire Chief Tom Brown. Their diligence in helping to find a solution brought about this two-year solution to an immediate problem."

Zika: U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs and colleagues urged President Barack Obama to expand protections against the Zika virus. The Obama Administration has opposed a resolution that would permit mosquito control programs to implement control plans without duplicative permits, Rep. Gibbs said.

"I want to know why it is acceptable for Puerto Rico to increase their defense against Zika, but not the rest of the United States?" Rep. Gibbs asked in a statement. "All Americans should be protected against the spread of Zika and I encourage the president to change his mind and allow the increased use of life-saving pesticides and give pregnant women safety from this terrible illness. If the President ends his opposition to the Conference report, Congress can take swift action to protect those most vulnerable to Zika."

An amendment on Zika from U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles), meanwhile, failed with a 20-29 committee vote. It would have stricken a funding cap of \$461 million on bilateral family planning and created a funding floor of \$585 million to administer anti-Zika programs.

"I am deeply disappointed that House Republicans rejected this amendment and have decided to turn their back on thousands of men and women struggling through this crisis," Rep. Ryan said.

Abortions: Rep. Gibbs applauded the House passage of legislation aimed at protecting health care professionals who refuse to participate in providing abortions.

The lawmaker supported the bill, saying it protects the religious freedom of those professionals.

"The House's vote today gives those willing to exercise their beliefs the option of using the court system if their employment is in jeopardy, instead of being at the mercy of a government bureaucracy," he said. "It is critical that we not only protect the unborn, but protect those whose livelihoods may be at stake for providing that protection."

Trade: An amendment from Rep. Ryan that would require an impact analysis on free trade agreements on wages and the demand for educator workers passed a House committee this week by voice vote.

The amendment is to a measure that would require the Bureau of Labor Statistics to submit a report on the impact of such agreements on the American workforce.

"All that you need to do is look at the shuttered factories and shattered communities across Ohio to see the devastating effect free trade agreements have had across our country," he said. "I am proud that my amendment passed and we will soon be able to know the true cost of these deals to our nation," Mr. Ryan said.

Israel: Sen. Portman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) released a bipartisan report from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations examining government grants to OneVoice, which is a non-governmental organization in Israel and Palestine.

The report examines the nearly \$350,000 in grants received from the State Department to foster peace between the two countries. The report determined the NGO complied with the department's terms but shortly after the terms expired used the funds to support a political campaign.

"The State Department ignored warnings signs and funded a politically active group in a politically sensitive environment with inadequate safeguards," Sen. Portman said. "It is completely unacceptable that U.S. taxpayer dollars were used to build a political campaign infrastructure that was deployed - immediately after the grant ended - against the leader of our closest ally in the Middle East. American resources should be used to help our allies in the region, not undermine them."

SNAP: Rep. Ryan this week sought to push for increased digital access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"If we continue on our current trajectory, we will have an adult obesity rate of 60% within 15 years," he said. "In a country, where 23.5 million people live in food deserts, we cannot allow the status quo to continue and must find new ways for all Americans to have access to fresh, healthy food."

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Gongwer News Service's planned coverage of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland next week will include regular updates to the website during the day.

Significant breaking news will be distributed through email alerts but subscribers can check the website throughout each day of the convention for updates focusing on activities of the Ohio delegation and other events.

Subscribers may also follow reporter Mikel Livingston and Gongwer on Twitter for links to those updates on our website. Mike's account is @mikellivingston and the main account is @gongwer.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-023, Requested by Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney Gregg Marx.
SYLLABUS:

1. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by Violet Township may provide medical services in nonemergency situations pursuant to R.C. 4765.361, so long as the medical services are performed under the direction of the emergency medical technician's medical director or cooperating physician advisory

board, are within the scope of practice of the emergency medical technician, and do not conflict with the emergency medical services described in R.C. 4765.37, R.C. 4765.38, R.C. 4765.39, and the rules adopted by the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services.

2. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township is immune from civil liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property resulting from the provision of medical services in a nonemergency situation unless the services are provided in a manner that constitutes wanton or willful misconduct, the services are manifestly outside the scope of the emergency medical technician's employment, or the services are performed with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner.
3. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township may not provide medical services on a routine, day-to-day basis outside the boundaries of the township when revenue from a township tax levy pays the emergency medical technician's compensation, unless the township has entered into a contract with another political subdivision pursuant to R.C. 9.60 or R.C. 505.44, or the township provides the medical services to the territory of another township or municipal corporation as a member of a joint fire district pursuant to R.C. 505.371, a fire and ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.375, or a joint ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.71.
4. A board of township trustees may establish reasonable charges for the use of medical services that are provided by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township in nonemergency situations and may collect those charges from a private hospital system that agrees to pay those charges on behalf of the recipient of the medical services.
5. A board of township trustees may contract with a private hospital system to provide medical services in nonemergency situations by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township to patients of the hospital who are residents and nonresidents of the township, so long as the private hospital system is a nonprofit corporation and the medical services are performed within the territory of the township.
6. A contract between the Violet Township Board of Trustees and a private hospital system for the provision of medical services in nonemergency situations may provide that the private hospital system will pay the township a sum of money for each visit performed by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic pursuant to the contract and that emergency medical technicians will provide medical services in nonemergency situations during the emergency medical technicians' regular work hours.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, July 20

Rail Development Commission, 1980 West Broad Street, Rm. GA, Columbus, 11 a.m.

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 3 p.m. (Dropout Prevention and Recovery Study Committee)

Thursday, July 21

Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)

Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27

Beginning of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, August 7

End of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, October 2

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$50 per Family | \$25 per Person to Peterson for Good Government)

Thursday, October 20

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1000 Event Sponsor, includes up to 6 participants; \$500 Lane Sponsor, includes up to 4 participants; \$150 per couple | \$100 per person | \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the **#** after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101).

et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 16-Monday, July 18

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention luncheon, Westin, 21 E. Fifth St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Featuring U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee)

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention dinner gala, Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., (Featuring Vernon Jordan)

Monday, July 18

Republican National Convention, Cleveland

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Unions fight ballot efforts to constitutionalize right to work

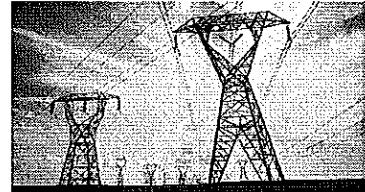


TOP NEWS Oct. 10, 2016

Unions fight ballot efforts to constitutionalize right to work

Governing

Right-to-work laws, which limit the power of labor unions, have been around for decades. Now business leaders and Republican lawmakers in two states want to make them permanent.



The politics of social media

State Net Capitol Journal

Like it or not, social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, Periscope and Snapchat have become an indispensable part of political campaigns and the vast majority of lawmakers' offices.

POWERED

Energy, environment transportation federal newsletters

These newsletters include news stories, legislation, events, resources and more from federal and state agencies, legislatures, the federal administration and other policy stakeholders.

Political battle over lawmakers' pay heads to Minnesota voters

Associated Press

Far below the ballot ovals for the presidential race, Minnesota

voters will answer a critical question that has vexed state lawmakers for years: Should they be setting their own pay?



California recycling crisis sends billions of bottles, cans into landfill

Bloomberg

About 90 percent of the 8 billion soda cans sold in California every year get turned in for recycling and a 5¢ refund. But cheaper commodity prices, plus lower Chinese demand for America's used bottles and cans, have upended the economics of the state's recycling industry.

Webinar Oct. 20: Infant and early childhood mental health

Capitol to Capitol

Bill information service training Oct. 18



Obama administration is quietly delaying thousands of deportation cases

The New York Times

The Obama administration is delaying deportation proceedings for recent immigrants in cities across the United States, allowing more than 56,000 of those who fled Central America since 2014 to remain in the country legally for several more years.

State legislators are dropping and giving 'em 22

State legislators around the country are dropping and giving 22 pushups in an effort to raise awareness about veterans' suicide prevention.

New York state to eliminate cash option for paying tolls

The New York Times

Instead of charging drivers who are stopped at toll plazas, the authority will use sensors and cameras to automatically charge cars that have been equipped with E-ZPass; those without it will have their license plates recorded by camera, and a bill will be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.



© National Conference of State Legislatures
Denver: 303-364-7700
Washington: 202-624-5400

You are subscribed to ncsi_today as justin.zielinski@ohiohouse.gov. To unsubscribe, send a blank email to: leave-118667-4499788.076123352033b13b7dfed4be37dcf324@lists.ncsl.org

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 8:11 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 1/13/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/13/2017



KASICH OUTLINES 2017 VISION IN FACE OF BUDGET SHORTFALL

Gov. John Kasich says he is creating a position for a chief innovation officer to pursue and oversee developments in emerging technologies, such as education technology, robotics and data analytics.

The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

KASICH NOT BACKING OFF TOUGH GRADUATION STANDARDS

Despite a Statehouse protest by Ohio superintendents two months ago, Gov. John Kasich said Thursday that he won't back down from tough new state high-school graduation requirements.

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY COALITION URGES OHIO NOT TO RESUME EXECUTIONS

At the exact hour a convicted Ohio killer was originally to be executed Thursday, opponents of capital punishment gathered at the Statehouse to urge state officials not to resume lethal injection after a three-year hiatus.

UTILITIES PUSH FOR TOUGH REGULATIONS ON SUBMETER COMPANIES

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio plans to regulate submeter companies, but the state's largest electricity utilities say that regulators are not going far enough to rein in abusive practices by these companies.

SPEAKER ROSENBERGER APPOINTS HOUSE COMMITTEE LEADERS

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, R-Clarksville, has named committee chairs and vice-chairs for the 2017-18 legislative session.

THE PLAIN DEALER

BUSINESS LEADERS ON SCHOOL BOARDS AMONG IDEAS GOV. JOHN KASICH PLANS TO PUT IN THE STATE BUDGET

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday dropped a few more hints about the policy changes tucked into his last two-year state budget.

OHIO DEATH PENALTY OPPONENTS URGE END TO EXECUTIONS OF MENTALLY ILL

Ohio death penalty opponents on Thursday urged Gov. John Kasich and state lawmakers not to resume executions next month after three years of delays.

FORMER YOUNGSTOWN MAYOR JAY WILLIAMS CONSIDERS RUN FOR GOVERNOR

Jay Williams, the former Youngstown mayor and outgoing Obama administration official, is getting serious about a run for Ohio governor in 2018.



RIGHT-TO-WORK WEAKENS UNIONS, BUT WILL IT BRING JOBS?

Unions terrify some employers.



AREA LAWMAKERS TO HELP LEAD STATE HOUSE COMMITTEES

State Rep. Steven Arndt (R., Port Clinton) will be the sole state House committee chairman from northwest Ohio in this two-year session.

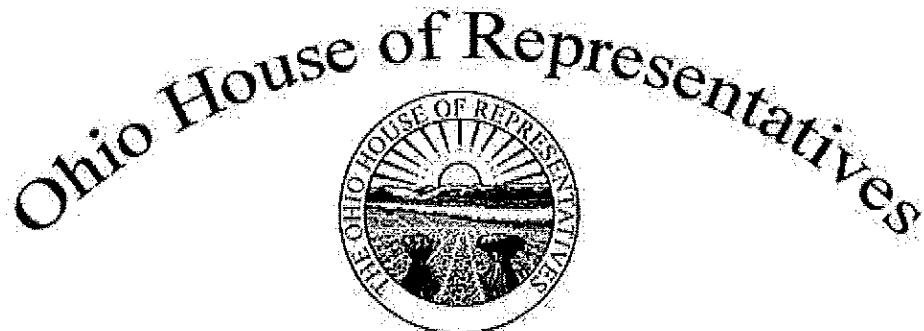
KASICH SAYS HE CAN FILL POTENTIAL \$1 BILLION BUDGET HOLE

Gov. John Kasich will propose a solution to a potential \$1 billion hole in the state's next two-year budget as the federal government closes a sales tax loophole exploited by Ohio to draw down more Medicaid matching funds.

FORMER LEGISLATOR SEEKS NEW TRIAL REGARDING FELONY THEFT CONVICTION

A former state legislator who was kicked out of office after being convicted on a felony theft charge in Danbury Township has requested a new trial in his case following denial of appeals for the original trial.

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 2:41 PM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: **GOP House Members**

From: **Representative John Becker**

Date: **January 13, 2017**

RE: **Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work**

I will soon be reintroducing a public sector right-to-work bill. This bill was previously introduced in the 131st General Assembly as HB 583.

There is a national trend of states moving to implement right-to-work laws. With Kentucky being the 27th state to continue that trend, it's time Ohio steps up to the plate. All of Ohio's neighboring states, with the exception of Pennsylvania, have right-to-work laws on the books.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov. The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, **Monday, January 30, 2017**. Thank you for your consideration.

Roanna Thawley

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

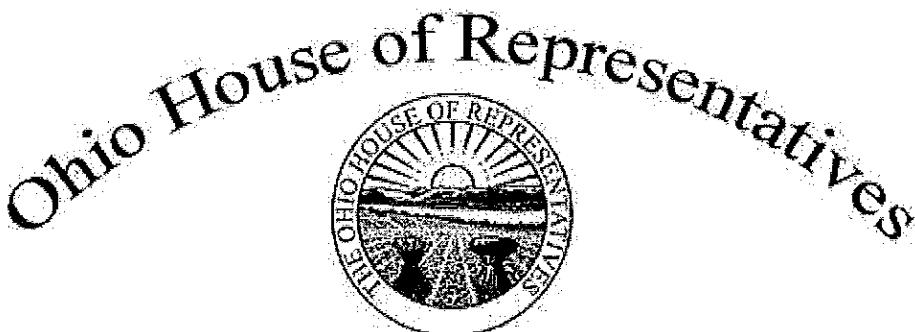
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-8134

roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 10:34 AM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

****REMINDER: Deadline to co-sponsor is January 30th at 5 PM****



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: January 23, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

I will soon be reintroducing a public sector right-to-work bill. This bill was previously introduced in the 131st General Assembly as HB 583.

There is a national trend of states moving to implement right-to-work laws. With Kentucky being the 27th state to continue that trend, it's time Ohio steps up to the plate. All of Ohio's neighboring states, with the exception of Pennsylvania, have right-to-work laws on the books.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.